Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Havana Views U.S. State Department Statement

FL2501200092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The U.S. State Department has warned terrorist groups based on U.S. territory that they will be treated to the fullest extent of the law and prosecuted if they continue planning acts of violence against Cuba. Reporter Juan Carlos Roque Garcia expands on this report.

[Begin recording] [Roque] Faced with the irrefutable evidence unveiled by the infiltration operation of three terrorists captured near Cardenas last 29 December, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler has issued a statement in which the United States publicly promises not to condone such activities against Cuba because they violate the Neutrality Act. Mrs. Tutwiler added that U.S. law formally prohibits any individual from participating in any military or naval action launched against a foreign country from U.S. territory.

Recently, Antonio Cuesta, terrorist ringleader of the so-called Commandos-L, during a news conference in Miami openly acknowledged that he had sent the terrorist squad to Cuba. The Miami media, including television, has repeatedly broadcast footage and photos of the military training conducted in Florida with the purpose of launching attacks against Cuba. In Miami, everyone is commenting that now the FBI is ready to initiate operations against these groups. On the other hand, THE MIAMI HERALD published Friday a front-page statement by an unidentified State Department official who said that the U.S. plans to inform Cuba ahead of time of any acts violating U.S. laws.

However, this conflicts with the statements made this morning in Miami by counterrevolutionary ringleader Antonio Cuesta who is responsible for sending the terrorists who infiltrated Matanzas. He expressed confidence in the fact that this law is going to be violated.

[Cuesta] I do believe that this is still only a rumor. I get the impression that it is politically motivated since President Bush has always been firm, has always been a man capable of solving military problems. He is a man who, when he has used to violate the U.S. Neutrality Act, for example during the Grenada invasion or the Panama invasion, has brought, above any neutrality and moral law, democracy and freedom to these countries. Therefore, I believe that a country and a government that is capable of violating this law, such as was also done during the Bay of Pigs invasion, has no legal or moral excuse to persecute the Cubans who always make an effort to comply with U.S. laws.

[Roque] This comment by Antonio Cuesta, leader of the infiltration squad captured in Matanzas, reaffirms our conviction that it is diffulcult to believe the statements made by U.S. State Department spokeswomen Margaret Tutwiler. Generally, all these well-intended statements do not translate into concrete results, and in most cases their words are carried off by the wind. [end recording]

U.S. Stand Criticized

FL2401194292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Lazaro Barrero commentary: "With Tony Cuesta, If It Meows...."]

[Text] U.S. authorities are truly great masters of deception. Now, it turns out that judicial institutions in Washington and Miami are investigating a possible violation of the U.S. law on neutrality following the statements made by counterrevolutionary ringleader Tony Cuesta, who acknowledged sending a terrorist squad to Cuba. There is a bit of background history to this.

The Neutrality Act, which is presently being considered, was created by George Washington in 1794 to keep the United States out of the crises generated by the French Revolution. Its essence was to avoid the use of U.S. territory to organize armed expeditions against other countries. A legal expert at Tufts University in Boston, has evaluated the use of this act by the U.S. Government and denounced the duplicity with which this so-called neutrality is used since the application of this law is, above all, political.

According to the U.S. media, this law was recently used to halt plots to overthrow former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier but was ignored when Ronald Reagan and his accomplices sponsored the Somozist groups which mined Nicaraguan harbors. Regarding Cuba, we must also question if the United States has been neutral. In all honesty, the United States did apply the law of neutrality once, when, in an attempt to crush the enthusiasm of the Cuban independence movement, they stopped the Fernandina expedition organized by Jose Marti in 1895. From that point on we would have to mention a long legacy which includes U.S. support of the Escambray bands, of the Bay of Pigs, of hundreds of infiltrations, of atrocious sabotages such as the one in La Cubre, of boat hijackings, and assassination attempts against the main leaders of the revolution, just to mention a few.

I doubt that U.S. authorities have the most minimal intention of acting against these most recent acts, which violate the law, particularly during an election year when President Bush has begun his reelection campaign on the wrong foot. The White House has always been reluctant to contradict the conservative sector within the Cuban-American community, many of which have actively supported his presidential campaign based on his promises of a harder line against the revolution.

Ringleader Tony Cuesta now boasts of his expertise on exiting, traveling within, and infiltrating Cuba despite the real truth. He lasted as long as a piece of candy in a

school yard when he tried to perform a similar adventure off the coast of Cuba. But, as an expression of the impunity which he thinks he enjoys, as an expression of how little he is concerned by what the U.S. judicial authorities might say, he has just stated on television that he will continue with these missions as long as they allow him to and that if he is not allowed to do so, others will do it. Tony Cuesta must feel very safe to challenge the Attorney General's Office in Washington and Miami.

The question I have been constantly asking myself in the last few day is: Who sponsors the purchase of weapons and boats? Who pays for training expenses? Who can be behind all of this? Because Tony Cuesta is not a wealthy man nor does he have resources to pay the costs of such adventures.

The antecedents of some of these events are extremely revealing. In 1965, for example, after strafing the Soviet tanker Baku in Caibarien—and to think that IZVESTIYA now defends this scum—Tony Cuesta got in contact with Jorge Mas Canosa, the so-called president of the Cuban-American National Foundation, who provided him with a boat, weapons, and explosives with which he carried out an armed infiltration in 1966 with the purpose of killing the then-president of Cuba, Osvaldo Dorticos, and attacking the Riviera Hotel. After Cuban authorities decided to grant clemency and reduced Cuesta's sentence, he returned to the United States where Mas Canosa, feeling responsible, began to financially support his friend and virtually became his godfather. I do not want to be insidious but the most Cartesian logic forces one to ask: Could Mas Canosa have sponsored the latest adventure of his friend Tony in the same manner that the Cuban-American National Foundation recently financed the trip to Washington of the relatives of the terrorists captured in Cardenas to feed the slander campaign against the Cuban judicial process?

Finally, comrades, the trait that characterizes these figures is that of being high-level con men, therefore, my conjecture is not too out of line because, as the saying goes, if it has four paws, meows, and has a tail, undoubtedly, it is a cat.

New York March 'To Demand End' to Embargo

FL2501021092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Organizers of the Peace for Cuba march planned for tomorrow in New York City have reported today that permission to hold the march at the Jacob Javits Convention Center has been withdrawn. Tony Roberts, a member of the International Call for Peace for Cuba group, informed PRENSA LATINA by telephone that the activity is the most important in the last decade in the United States and will take place anyway, anywhere.

Roberts stated that the Jacob Javits Center unilaterally decided today to cancel the event, arguing without further explanation that it had received a call from the police department. This action was discussed this afternoon by the New York Supreme Court. It is expected that about 2,000 Americans, as well as European and Latin American celebrities, will participate in the march to demand an end to the economic embargo against Cuba.

Visa Denial Noted

FL2501134392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The U.S. State Department has denied visas to Cuban prima ballerina Alicia Alonso, Havana historian Eusebio Leal, and former boxing champion Teofilo Stevenson, special guests of the organizers of the rally which will be held today in New York in support of the Cuban revolution.

N.Y. Rally Supported

PA2601013592 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] In reference to news reports released by Radio Havana Cuba's evening cast, we would like to talk about the organization of an event initially scheduled to be held in New York City on 25 January. Its objective was to show support for Cuba on the occasion of the events that have taken place in the last few days.

A giant, quite aggressive international campaign has been unleashed against Cuba because of a Cuban court ruling to sentence to death one of three infiltrators who tried to surreptitiously enter Cuba's northern coast on 29 December to carry out a number of sabotage acts against economic installations, especially in densely populated areas.

This event, organized by various U.S. progressive forces in New York City, has faced serious stumbling blocks. It is being handled suspiciously, presumably by Cuban counterrevolutionary forces, the most extremist segment of the counterrevolution.

We have a report from our correspondent, Tim Wheeler, explaining the obstacles faced by the event's organizers. I would like our listeners to pay close attention to this report, which was transmitted in English, but translated by members of our editorial staff.

[Begin Wheeler recording in English with superimposed Spanish translation] Organizers of the rally angrily denounced the decision not to allow them to use the Jacob Javits Center but said the Cuban solidarity rally will be held as scheduled. This is a flagrant attempt by the U.S. Government to silence the voices calling for the normalization of relations with the island, according to Sue Paley, one of the event's organizers.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Jacob Javits Convention Center said the New York City Police informed them that, of the 4,000 tickets sold, 500 ended up in the hands of ultrarightist Cuban immigrants, who intend to infiltrate and undermine the peaceful nature of the Cuban solidarity event. Organizer Sue Paley said this report is completely false. She said the event will be held peacefully and orderly. Hundreds of peace activists in New York are continuously calling the Jacob Javits Center to protest the decision. They have also called New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, District Attorney Robert Abrams, New York City Mayor David Dinkins, and Police Commissioner Lee Brown to demand they intervene to protect the constitutional right of the committee to conduct the Cuban solidarity event.

Promoters of the rally, including former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and other distinguished U.S. political personalities such as Congressmen Ronald Dellums and Mervyn Dymally as well as Judges William Cluster and Wilhelm Joseph sent a message to the New York State governor and the city's mayor.

The message says the reason given by the center to suspend the event is false and unfounded. The organizers of the rally, called Peace for Cuba, strictly followed all requirements at the Javits Center and the plan was accepted. They are prepared to conduct the event in an orderly manner, especially because personalities from all over the world have been invited.

The message adds that the decision to suspend the rally has a political undertone aimed at undermining the free expression of opinions, which favors the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.

Finally, the document calls on authorities to counteract this illegal maneuver by the Jacob Javits Center and it states that the State and City of New York are responsible for guaranteeing the constitutional right of the organizers and all people who were planning to participate in the Cuban solidarity event. [end recording]

I think the report from our correspondent Tim Wheeler is very descriptive. In my opinion, the Cuban counterrevolutionaries have unleashed a campaign to prevent any voice of solidarity with Cuba from being heard, not only in New York but in any city or town in the United States.

I also believe that behind all this we can find cooperation by the New York City authorities. As I said, the objective is to promote criticism against Cuba because of its sovereign observation of its laws. Cuba, in the sovereign observation of its laws, sentenced to death one of three Cubans who infiltrated Matanzas Province on Cuba's northern coast. The Cuban counterrevolutionaries are very much related to the paramilitary organizations involved in military training exercises to repeat these attempts to infiltrate Cuba.

They are trying by all means possible to get the public's support and its blessing for these types of activities aimed at destabilizing the Cuban revolution. This is the objective the Cuban counterrevolutionaries want to achieve, with the approval of the U.S. authorities. Let us wait for the next report to see if the event will finally be held in another building or on the street, as some of the New York event's organizers have said.

Commentary Notes Foreign Reaction to Execution

PA2401191692 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Amalia San Martino commentary]

[Text] Diverse opinions and statements regarding the recent terrorist case are circulating around the world despite the fact that no profound analysis has been conducted of the Cuban legal foundation, its judicial analysis, or convincing study of the case conducted in Cuba. This situation would not be so serious if the opinions and statements did not come from personalities who have passed hasty judgment.

One of these persons dared to criticize the capital punishment sentence applied to Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, while turning a deaf ear to protests made for more than a decade by human rights organizations against the thousands of political disappearances, tortures, and murders committed by paramilitary gangs in a country. Those innocent victims—since many were women, workers, and even children—were shot with bullets coming from government-backed groups and from the government's military squadrons. They did not go on trial and there was no law to protect them.

It is no secret that the Salvadoran Government was responsible for this criticism of Cuba. Puerto Rican Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon was also compelled to issue opinions regarding the case. His statements angered the Cuban public.

The colonial governor of the island which, contrary to history is called a Commonwealth, accused the Cuban Government of being brutal and insensitive. He also noted that lack of mercy is one of the most reprehensible characteristics of Cuban authorities.

Maybe this modern proconsul thought one should have mercy for those who came from the North to assassinate defenseless children and workers who would have been brutally surprised while going to the movies or to any other recreation spot. The fact they intended to do just this was adequately proven during the trial. There was evidence of this in the plans the terrorists carried with them. Two of these terrorists are facing prison terms of 30 years.

Fortunately, common sense and belief in the principle of nonintervention still exist in the minds of some high-level officials and important personalities in Latin America. The best example of this was given by Javier Barros Valero, the Mexican deputy foreign minister, who when asked about his country's position regarding the

Cuban judicial case, stated the Mexican Government traditionally respects other countries' internal decisions. Barros added he was sure the Cuban Government was acting responsibly and measuring the consequences of its actions.

Other countries, such as Brazil, have raised their voices to express similar opinions in favor of Cuba. Because of their independence of thought and their respect for the decisions made by other countries, these opinions speak very favorably of those who voiced them.

The criticism was by and large superficial and did not take into account—as we stated at the beginning of this commentary—the investigations, extensive testimony of the accused and, above all, the Cuban penal code, which specifies the punishment to be applied in cases of terrorism. These campaigns against Cuba do not have the slightest effect on those who do their duty and abide by the laws.

More on Foreign Reaction

FL2501030192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Today, the topic of Cuba continues to command most of the attention of the Mexican press. In the pages of the most important newspapers, the message given by Paraguayan writer Augusto Roa Bastos is highlighted, as well as reports from the GRANMA newspaper on the slander against Cuba.

EL SOL newspaper reports on statements made by former Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge. The Sandinist leader said the execution of a terrorist leader in Cuba was the response of the Cuban people based on their laws. Borge added that no one abroad has the right to criticize or condemn, much less attack the way of life and organization of a people.

Ambassador Defends Execution

PA2601233492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Jose Fernandez de Cossio, Cuban ambassador to Mexico, has said that Cuba does not want to become isolated, but it also does not want to lose its status as a free and sovereign state.

In an interview with the Mexican daily LA JORNADA, the Cuban diplomat said the EC, some Latin American countries, and outstanding intellectuals are participating in an anti-Cuban campaign and using as a pretext the case of the three terrorists recently tried in Cuba.

Fernandez de Cossio said that the Cuban revolution must resort to legal means to defend itself. He added that Cuba is the target of an economic, diplomatic, and propagandistic aggression and is being harassed as no other nation in the world is harassed.

In his statements to LA JORNADA, the Cuban ambassador criticized those who condemn the execution of one of the terrorists who recently infiltrated into Cuba. Fernandez de Cossio said those who criticized Cuba did not say a word when three Cuban fighters were murdered by a group who tried to leave the country illegally.

Robaina on Youths Reaction to Tarara Deaths

FL2501203192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Interview with Roberto Robaina, Politburo member and first secretary of the Young Communists Union, UJC, by reporter Mario Huber Garrido, at the Havana Interior Order UJC meeting in Tarara—recorded]

[Text] [Garrido] What is the significance of the fact that this meeting is being held near the place of the events and what has the Young Communists Union expressed in the meeting?

[Robaina] Well, I believe that the fact that the comrades of Yuriy, Orosman, and Rafael are meeting near the place of that tragic event is a symbol, a very powerful symbol. I believe that the meaning is clear. What has happened to whomever attempted to extinguish voices and erase ideas is what always happens to the people who act in this manner. I believe that whoever thought that the only consequence of their action was the death of our three combatants, were entirely wrong. The reality is the fact that their lives, their examples, and their deaths have multiplied the reaction. What we have here today—the hall is full to capacity, and there are not more people here because we asked them not to come—are hundreds of Yuriys, hundreds of Rafaels, hundreds of Orosmans, and hundreds of Perez Quintozas.

I believe that once again they miscalculated the character, the reaction to events of this kind of the Cuban people and youth. This is to me the most clear fact. Although the number of lives lost is high, I believe that nothing unites the people, the youth as strongly as events such as this. Our youth, who is a part of our people, is here. They cannot tolerate the disappearance of three of our brothers. Where three have disappeared, thousands rise. I believe that the thousands gathered in this place, constitutes a slap in the face to those who wanted to silence them.

Alleged CIA-Sponsored Crimes Recalled

FL2401164392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1508 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Crime is one of the most common methods used by the Central Intelligence Agency to achieve its goals of destabilization. Nineteen years ago, on 24 January 1973 in Bolondron, Matanzas murderers, employed by this organization killed two children and wounded their mother and two brothers.

It is also known that on that date the CIA prepared a diving suit contaminated with a fungus which was supposed to cause a chronic skin disease. The breathing

equipment was sprayed with tuberculosis germs. The suit was supposed to be brought to Cuba as a gift for Fidel by lawyer James Sullivan, who was coming to negotiate the release of the prisoners captured at the Bay of Pigs. Death and the CIA always go hand in hand.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Lithuania

FL2501150492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1431 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Cuba and Lithuania have signed a five-year economic cooperation agreement and a trade accord for 1992. According to the agreement, Cuba will export sugar, citrus products, medicine, and medical equipment to Lithuania. Cuba will import food, soap, and detergent from Lithuania.

PRENSA LATINA reports from Lithuania that the special interim commission for economic affairs has held its first meeting. This commission is responsible for, among other duties, ensuring the functioning of the Lithuanian economy under the present harsh conditions, gathering information on the status of the various economic sectors, coordinating aid in critical situations, and drafting an economic plan for special conditions.

Talks Begin With DPRK on Commercial Ties

PA2701000892 Havana Radio Havana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and the DPRK on 24 January began talks in Pyongyang to make official plans for trade and bilateral cooperation for the remainder of the current five-year plan.

Negotiations are being conducted during the 15th session of the Cuban-DPRK Mixed Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

The talks are presided over by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and his DPRK counterpart, Kim Tal-Hyon. The two men will sign agreements on trade and payments for 1992 to 1995 and on exchanges in 1992.

Cuba and the DPRK have had diplomatic and commercial relations for more than 30 years, including cooperation in important fields such as agriculture, industry, fishing, poultry and cattle raising.

Unemployment Predictions for Eastern Europe Cited

FL2501021392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] In spite of the fact that the unemployment crisis in Eastern Europe continues to grow, experts have predicted that the worst is yet to come, taking into account that reforms to establish a market economy have hardly begun. The specialists' predictions indicate that by the end of 1992 there will be unemployment totals of almost 20 percent of the labor force in Bulgaria and Poland, about 25 percent in Yugoslavia, and 12 to 14 percent in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. The fear of those directing the current transformations is growing in the face of the possibility of social explosions.

Fyodor Prokopov, president of the Russian Population Employment Committee, predicted today that the figure for unemployment in the Russian Federation will reach almost 8 million by October. This official has informed the press that out of the almost 150 million inhabitants of Russia, there are currently 60,000 registered unemployed people. Prokopov bases his predictions for the end of the year on the experience of Poland, where price liberalization and privatization have sharply reduced the number of jobs. He said that the number of unemployed people in Russia will stabilize by mid-1993, when that phenomenon will affect 5 percent of the economically active population.

Fidel Castro Speaks to Outstanding Athletes

FL2301210092 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the awards ceremony for the most outstanding athletes of 1991; at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 21 January—recorded]

[Text] Well, the truth is that this ceremony has been brief but very emotional. It would be impossible not to mention the heroic deeds that you have accomplished this year and the sum of all the others accomplished during these years of the revolution. Conrado [Martinez, president of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute] mentioned that the year which just ended had been the most prosperous one and there is no doubt about this. The emotions of the Pan-American Games are still fresh in our memory. I believe that this was really the greatest sports event in our history. Not only because of the fact that it was carried out with great efficiency, great precision, great organization, and great participation from the people, not only because every facility was completed on time—which is a heroic deed in itself—but also because of the outstanding role of our athletes.

I believe that no one ever dreamed that a country in this hemisphere could someday beat the Americans in the Pan-American Games. No one ever imagined it, not even the Americans. They did not bring some of their athletes. Maybe they underestimated the possibilities of Cuba. They did not count on a very important factor, which is the morale, the dignity, and patriotism of the athlete, the honor of it all. The fact that you are representing our people constitutes a force that must be added to the effort that each one of the athletes is capable of achieving under normal conditions.

The 140 gold medals and all the other medals that were won will become part of history. I believe that all of us who were there will also become part of history.

[chuckles] Always present will be the tension, the enormous interest of the last day when it was still undetermined who would win the highest number of gold medals. Among the athletes participating that day were the members of the volleyball team—I do not remember—the gymnastics team, and above all, the boxers. There were 11 athletes competing for gold medals. Not one of them failed. They won the 11 gold medals. I believe that there have only been a few times when I have had the privilege of witnessing anything similar, the privilege of experiencing a similar situation. Manolo [not further identified] must know what it is like since he has been involved in sports for many years.

We lived weeks, days, and hours of great emotion. We truly enjoyed great happiness, and all the people enjoyed it together with us when we saw the results, which were so well deserved, well won, conquered with honor and glory. That day was a symbol of the efforts made for 30 years by the revolution in sports. Among this great and meritorious group of athletes you have received a special distinction, the young athletes, the mature athletes, individually and as a group; also a great number of former-athletes, comrades who participated during these activities, have received these well-earned distinctions that have been given to you today, including the flag.

Now, we have a truly important task ahead; how to keep up our sports during the special period, not only how to sustain its levels, but also how to develop them and how to accomplish this with a minimum of resources, with maximum savings of energy, fuel in general, and expenses in accordance with the current circumstances. We have been demonstrating in practice that many things are possible; a number of games at night, games during the day, number of trips in baseball, which is the sport that our people like so much. We have taken steps to reduce trips. They were explaining to me that the plan is to save 51,000 km of travel. They will hold the competitions by subregion, and then the last 24 games will be at the national level.

You have seen the greatness—well we cannot say that this championship, as it is called, was so great, this is the selective of the national series. It should have been a bit more even. We do not like things that end so fast. We like it when games are a bit more competitive. We hope that this new series is also a bit tougher. I will not say which side we are on, but we usually are on the side of the weaker ones, even when the weaker teams usually leave us stranded. [chuckles] And they do not let us win one game. I am not into regionalism. As I tell people, when the national competitions are on, I am on the side of all teams. I am on the side of Cuba, and this is when we truly live the greatest emotions.

As I was saying, the series were held. Even under the most difficult conditions of the special period, we can always do something. Studies have also been made on how competitions can be carried out in the schools. We have analyzed how to use the minimum number of people and yet maintain mass participation. I would say that the essential goal of the special period is for sports to not decrease, but to continue to increase and improve. We will not be able to send a large team to the Olympics Games, but we will send a well-chosen delegation in all the areas where our athletes have an opportunity to excel, in every discipline were we have earned a reputation, our right to attend.

We must do as we are doing in medicine. In 1991, infant mortality was lower than in 1990. That would really have seemed impossible with all the difficulties we are having. Nevertheless, it was 10.676 in 1990. We always say 10.7 because when the fraction is higher than 50, it is moved up one, to 10.7, but it was really 10.73 or something, or 10.74 or something like that. [numbers as heard] This year it was 10.66, eight-hundredths lower, but this meant that a higher number of lives were saved thanks to that quality effort in 1991. We would have been content to maintain this rate, yet it has became lower, one sees the effect of the work done by doctors, hospitals, family doctors and the results of preventive measures, and all that.

We must do the same in sports, not drop, but rather rise. We must continue to develop, because we can. We have the people, which is what is important, the athletes, the facilities. Many of the facilities do not use fuel. It depends on when the training is done. We have the trainers. We have the physical education teachers. We have more physical education and sports teachers than any other country, more teachers and trainers per capita than any other country. We must use all these resources in the best way so that revolutionary sports can continue to progress.

I am talking about revolutionary sports, not spinelessness [merengueria]. You know that spinelessness resulted in the disappearance of excellent teams. Along with socialism, socialist sports also disappeared. They have sold the athletes, or we do not know what they have done, or they have sold themselves. They have become disorganized. Many prestigious athletes in the former socialist community are not even training any more. No one knows what is going to happen in the USSR, if each of the independent republics will have a team, or if they are going to keep a common team. It has been a disaster.

But our country has maintained its unity, independence, revolutionary spirit, the revolution, socialism, discipline, and work. An organized, united country can do anything. We are currently facing one of the greatest challenges in our history, but we are facing it, and we are even prepared to face worse conditions if it is necessary. Because from the revolutionary point of view, we must be good athletes. We must be good athletes from the revolutionary point of view. Good athletes are those who never let up, never give up, never become discouraged. They are those who fight to the end. They have their objectives and goals, and they go after them, and they reach them. Good athletes do not know what tiredness is. They do not know what discouragement is. Good athletes only know what victory is.

We must all be like that, as revolutionaries. All revolutionaries must be like good athletes. We must know how to be like Olympic athletes. We must know how to always win gold medals. That is what is meant by the willingness and spirit with which our people are today confronting all the exceptional difficulties we are experiencing as a result of the mistakes and disasters into which others have led the revolutionary process in their own countries.

Our people admire this, as they admire good athletes. Our people encourage this spirit, as they encourage good athletes, good teams. We never like to see a team lose heart, no matter what kind of team it is, baseball, volleyball, water polo, or boxing. We like athletes to struggle, fight, have courage. So today we also have a gigantic team, which is our people, millions and millions of patriots and revolutionaries. History will never be able to accuse them of being soft, or of becoming discouraged, or losing the fighting spirit.

If fate has assigned us the task that is now facing all of us, we will know how to do it. History's testimony will confirm that we were able to confront all these difficulties and overcome them. History will confirm that we were a great team, a truly Olympic team. This is what is also meant when we say: Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Lage on Crisis, Low Sugar Prices, Need for Oil

PA2701042492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2347 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Havana, 26 Jan (NOTIMEX)—A high-ranking Cuban leader has confirmed that Cuba has yet to achieve trade agreements with the republics that formerly comprised the Soviet Union, with which it carried out 85 percent of its trade for 30 years.

Carlos Lage, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and one of the men closest to Fidel Castro, confirmed that no preferential prices have been established for Cuban sugar with any of the republics comprising the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"There are no trade agreements for this year and we have only achieved some progress on general agreements with some republics—and very few effective contracts," it was stated by the leader in an interview with the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE.

Lage said that Russia told the Cuban Government it is willing to maintain trade relations, but at world market prices. However, Cuba has yet to sign contracts for all of its sugar and oil imports for this year.

Lage, who is also executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, said Cuba has seen its external purchasing capability reduced to 50 percent in two years, after the socialist bloc disappeared and preferential sugar prices were eliminated in that market.

During the interview with the Union of Young Communists' weekly, Carlos Lage said the Cuban crisis is even more complex if one considers "that the largest part of our developed industry is of socialist origin, above all from the former USSR."

"This means that the supply of raw materials, technology, and spare parts, and the market for our products were in countries that no longer exist," he said.

Lage said that, within this context, his country has lost its purchasing capability and must now find markets to get its supplies, sell its products, and maintain its technology. "In some case we will have to adapt the spare parts, in other cases we will have to manufacture the spare parts, and in some cases we will have to make new investments."

Lage, considered the creator of the new economic strategy being developed by the island, said the government is now immersed in the reorientation, adaptation, and transformation of its economy.

"But we need time to do this," and the lack of oil, which was previously shipped from the defunct Soviet Union, has delayed the beginning of the sugar harvest, Cuba's main export product, he admitted.

He said that this year's sugar production cannot possibly reach the 7.5 million tons needed to obtain more revenues.

However, he asserted that the country is willing to pledge certain amounts of sugar if it has access to oil.

"This represents a priority to us, and we would exchange sugar—no matter how much we produce—for food or oil," he added.

Lage said Cuba does not plan to consume more than 6 million tons of oil in 1992, given current market prices.

An economy that consumed 13 million tons of oil in 1989, 10 tons in 1990, and 8.6 tons in 1991 must adapt itself to this new amount, he asserted.

The official did not rule out the possibility of closing down more industries given the lack of fuel, but he explained that "the country can live" with 6 million tons of oil.

He urged all the people to follow the savings measures adopted by the Cuban Government during the second half of 1991.

The people must adapt themselves to the established level of electricity consumption and they must exert themselves even more to organize their family's economy, he emphasized.

Lage said the authorities are still drilling for oil in certain regions of the island to locate new oil deposits. He added that Cuba is currently capable of extracting approximately 800,000 tons of crude oil per year.

The official confirmed that a deposit of good quality light oil was recently discovered in Ciego de Avila Province, "but extraction capabilities" cannot be more than 60,000 to 70,000 tons per year.

The Cuban leader emphasized how important the island considers the negotiations currently underway with the former USSR republics to lessen Cuba's internal economic crisis.

Raul Castro on Working Tour of Matanzas Province

FL2401195092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], is currently making a working tour of Matanzas Province. The minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, upon his arrival in Matanzas, received a comprehensive explanation on directives of the commander in chief to confront the special period which includes progress in the food plan, the conservation of fuel and energy, and conditions in the service, public health, and transportation sectors.

Army General Raul Castro, accompanied by Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first PCC secretary in Matanzas Province, was also informed on the progress of construction of tunnels and shelters.

Together with PCC Politburo members Juan Almeida, Ulises Rosales del Toro, and Julian Rizo; Raul will tour areas of economic and military interest while the military celebrates the 34th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

Sancti Spiritus Holds Vigilance System Exercise

FL2501164092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1506 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The second day of the Invincible Escambray Exercise is currently taking place in Sancti Spiritus Province. The objective of the exercise is to boost the ongoing improvement of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. An analysis of the first day of the exercise revealed that almost all the crimes committed in the last 24 hours, as well as some crimes committed previously, have been resolved thanks to the efforts of the vigilance system commissions, the citizens, and the Interior Ministry forces.

Trials were held in the area where the crimes were committed, including the trial against a group of former food industry workers from the Cabaiguan Municipality accused of crimes against the national economy.

Provincial municipal commissions, members of the National Revolutionary Police, and work centers of the vigilance system are participating in the Invincible Escambray Exercise which will end on 31 January.

Dominican Republic

Haitian Envoy Says Crisis Reaches 'Dead-End'

FL2401174092 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Haitian Ambassador Guy Alexandre has declared that the OAS is contemplating a blockade against the Haitian regime in order to impede the constant violations of the economic embargo. The diplomat admitted that the crisis in his country has reached a dead-end.

He did not want to comment on allegations, made by leaders of the OAS, charging the Dominican Republic and other neighboring countries have violated the embargo. During an interview at the opening of the 14th ordinary session of the Latin American Parliament, Guy Alexandre declined to give his opinion of the allegations made by OAS leaders, arguing that he preferred to consult with his Haitian colleague in Washington.

Haiti

Theodore's Bodyguard Killed; Theodore Unharmed

PA2601010792 Paris AFP in Spanish 2322 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 25 Jan (AFP)—The bodyguard of Rene Theodore, the future prime minister of Haiti, was killed on 25 January by a group of armed civilians in an attack against the National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] headquarters.

Yves Jean-Pierre, Theodore's bodyguard for several years, was struck by automatic fire and died instantly.

The attackers were unable to enter the MRN headquarters in downtown Port-au-Prince, where an agreement meeting was to take place between Theodore and the political leaders of parties represented in the Haitian parliament.

Theodore, a moderate communist, and the remaining leaders who accompanied him, were unharmed.

Upswing in Violence, Crime Noted in Capital

FL2401195292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The police in Port-au-Prince killed four presumed thieves yesterday morning on Boulevard La Saline. Four young men were killed late yesterday morning [23 January] by policemen in Port-au-Prince who said the four were motorcycle thieves. The four bodies remained on the pavement on Boulevard La Saline until yesterday morning [as heard]. The hands of one of them were tied with a rope. The witnesses assert that the four thieves were killed on the spot by the police. The residents of the area apparently do not know the victims.

An upsurge of violent acts in Port-au-Prince has been noted for some time. On the night of 22 January a man was found dead by unknown casus in Delmas 24, near the place called Solino. He was killed by a group of civilians. The victim is the father of a family of 10 children and the mother of the children is living in the United States.

On the night of 19 January in Thor, a group of armed civilians abducted a young man who was in a carnival band. A few minutes later, he was killed in a street not far from where he was taken.

Last Friday, Mr. Patrick Pierre Maurose, a Chamber of Deputies security agent, was killed by armed men so they could.... [rephrases] but until now, nobody can say if there is a relation between this murder and the threats made against some parliamentarians because they are participating in the negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the Haitian crisis.

Major Leanings on Crisis Solution Emerge

FL2501005092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Italicized passage in Creole]

[Text] At least two tendencies are emerging within the Senate in its search for a solution to the Haitian crisis. Daily debates on the articles of the 1987 Constitution provoke comments and create tongue-wagging in the small room where about 20 lawmakers spend day after day chasing a solution that can either not be found or is imperceptible. Four months after the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, now in exile, the Haitian political crisis persists and the responsibility to overcome it appears to fall doubly on the senators of the Republic, who are being subjected to all sorts of threats and pressures.

In any case, two major tendencies are becoming apparent in the Senate: one in favor of continuing talks aimed at adopting a negotiated political solution; and one supporting a strict application of Article 149 of the Constitution, meaning the holding of elections. Three resolutions were proposed to the Assembly during its 21 January session. The first project, submitted by Senator Rony Mondestin, foresees the formation of a bicameral commission requiring agreement with the executive on the manner of transfering power. This is in accordance with the 6 January parliamentary communique.

A second project, by Senator Serge Joseph, National Agricultural and Industrial Party; supported by Eddy Dupiton, of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD]; suggests temporary postponement of negotiations with the OAS. Meanwhile a commission in charge of coordinating arrangments between the executive and parliament will be formed to adopt the constitutional solution that current circumstances and the nation's general interest requires.

In the third resolution project, independent Senator Guy Bauduy suggests that from now on, the responsibilities for negotiations be transferred to the executive currently in charge. An arbitration commission has been set up in the Senate to reconcile these different proposals.

The leaning of the FNCD, today divided, is to pursue the negotiations and vote on the prime minister-designate, to put an end to the crisis. Turneb Delpe rejects the idea of organizing new elections in the country.

[Begin recording] [Delpe] *Anyone who believes in democracy and wants democracy in this country, anyone who believes in elections, would not, I think, have any other choice—putting aside any problems and differences that person might have with the 16 December elected government—than to agree to a negotiated solution. That is why I said a negotiated return, meaning that there are many problems, but within the framework of negotiations, we are trying to solve them once and for all to give the experience a chance to continue.*

[Clarence] *Is the FNCD ready to support Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's choice of Prime Minister-designate Rene Theodore, with his own assorted conditions, as presented recently in Washington?*

[Delpe]*It is clear that for us at FNCD, our choice—and no one can hold it against us—was Victor Benoit, as he was first designated by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. If, for one reason or another, to reach a political compromise, the choice of someone else is necessary, we are saying that we will not leave the country in the current political crisis that it is now facing, and if this solution can more or less satisfy the sectors in conflict and help solve the crisis, we will agree with it so long as some conditions are satisfied. The first condition to be fulfilled is that the new prime minister is able to guarantee public freedom at all levels: freedom of press, freedom of assembly; freedom of public demonstration. That is a condition that a prime minister must provide.*

[Clarence]*The tricky question is the one about the Armed Forces of Haiti, especially the Army commander in chief or the Army high staff. Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Rene Theodore hold different positions on that question. You at FNCD, Turneb Delpe in the Chamber, what do you think of that matter?*

[Delpe]*We think that this matter is [words indistinct], it is a tricky point within what we call the negotiated solution. I think that a round table must be set with the various concerned parties in order to find a more or less honorable solution to that issue.*

[Clarence]*Last question Senator Delpe: How are the trends developing in both Senate and the Chamber of Deputies—toward the negotiated solution, or toward keeping the provisional power until the elections?*

[Delpe]*I cannot understand people who speak about keeping power until the elections. People who speak in such terms were appointed by the Constitution. If they use*

the Constitution as an argument to justify themselves, let us go to the article which appointed them and see what it provides for. The letter of the Constitution prevails over its spirit. Therefore, the letter of the Constitution provides that a president chosen in conformity with Article 149 has between 45 and 90 days to hold elections. Once this date is past—that was his special mission—if he does not hold elections, the Constitution, not providing for extenuating circumstances or a case of absolute necessity—since we are talking about the letter....[changes thought] The parliament, through its two presidents, issued a press release announcing that Article 149 has expired, and since there is not yet another government to replace this one which is only supposed to take care of everyday business, this government no longer has the power to hold elections unless another National Assembly is summoned and the National Assembly votes for another president or this president takes the oath again so that he has the power to appoint another prime minister. Both of them, newly mandated, would hold elections. If this government remains as it is, we think—although some people do not want to say so—its mission is over. [end recording]

Ministers Explain Proposed Budget to Senators

FL2401195192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Planning and External Cooperation Minister Marcel Bonny and Economy and Finance Minister Charles Beaulieu appeared today Thursday, 23 January, before the Finance Committee of the Senate of the Republic in order to discuss the proposed national budget, and the priorities and the orientation of that budget.

Mr. Bonny said the officials have prepared a crisis budget because of the economic problems that the country is now facing. Mr. Bonny said this budget is intended to meet the peoples' needs in compliance with the law and, at the request of the senators, he presented some examples of minor projects on road repairs being led and supervised by his ministry.

The planning minister told the senators that all payments on the Haitian state's behalf are authorized by the Finance Ministry and the ministry that he is heading supervises the works that are being done in order to see if the works for which state money has been released are really performed. Minister Bonny explained to the senators how difficult it is for the state to get money to create and carry out projects because there is no aid from foreign countries and international organizations coming into Haiti any longer.

During the debate, Senator Guy Bauduy, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, proposed primarily a reduction in the budget and the creation of other projects by the state. As this budget cut appeared difficult, Senator Bauduy further proposed that the officials temporarily furlough some state employees from duty while paying them 70 percent of their regular salary, thinking that the remaining money could be used by the Haitian state for the creation of projects. The senator said his proposal is based on the financial constraints and experiences in Brazil and Argentina. [passage omitted]

In his answer to Senator Bauduy's proposal, Finance and Economy Minister Charles Beaulieu explained that the proposal is a proposal [as heard] but the constraints must be taken into account. Mr. Beaulieu added that it is not so easy to furlough the employees because the solution is not simple. The minister, however, promises that the officials will look into that question. [passage omitted]

The national budget for this year [fiscal year 1991-1992] amounts to 1.372 billion gourdes and the investment budget amounts to 22 million gourdes. Compared to the national budget of the deposed government which was 1.772 billion gourdes, this budget has been reduced. According to an official of the Finance Ministry this reduction is justified by the fact that the external aid, which has amounted to 450 million gourdes, does not enter Haiti any longer.

Finance Minister on Trip to U.S., Economy

FL2501013592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Charles Beaulieu has traveled to Washington to see if the United States can release the assets of the Haitian state there. The minister's meeting with U.S. officials went well, according to his report to our colleague Franckel Valentin.

[Begin recording] [Valentin] Economy and Finance Minister Charles Beaulieu stated that the meeting he had with officials of the U.S. Treasury last week to have the assets of the Haitian Government released went well, and conditions had been laid so the embargo on the country's assets abroad can be lifted. According to Minister Beaulieu, the arguments he posed attracted the attention of the U.S. officials who promised to study the situation with their judicial services and send him an answer. Beaulieu asserted that the diplomatic corps of the former government is not being paid with the country's funds that are frozen abroad, contrary to what has been reported. He assesses those funds at $40 million. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economic situation of the country, Minister Beaulieu said there were some poor receipts, and that the results expected from the receipts were not really reached. Minister Beaulieu stated that the economic situation of the country is under control and that measures have been taken to limit expenses. He said he is optimistic and that the officials can continue to control the situation. [passage omitted]

Minister Beaulieu denied rumors that $1 million have disappeared at the Minoterie d'Haiti [Flour Mill of Haiti]. He explained that the mill has debts with the Central Bank and the bank is authorized to debit the account of the mill for a portion of its debts, in compliance with the protocol that was signed between these two

institutions. According to the minister, that is exactly what is happening because nobody can withdraw money from the mill's account. [passage omitted]

Beaulieu said that fiscal revenues are doing very well in the country, but that unity has been promoted to increase these revenues. The minister also said that he expects the receipts to hopefully improve this month. [end recording]

Jamaica

Sector Endorses Manley Liberalization Policies

FL2401163792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 23, CANA—Jamaica's private sector leadership on Thursday gave ringing endorsement to the economic liberalisation policies being pushed througn by Michael Manley's government and suggested that the process had significant lessons for the rest of the Caribbean. If the government sticks to its policy, Jamaica is going to be the jewel not only to Caricom (Caribbean community and common market) but to Central America and possibly even Latin America," declared Dennis Lalor, president of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ). Lalor, who heads the ICWI [Insurance Company of the West Indies] Financial Services and Hotel Group, and PSOJ leaders met journalists for a briefing session as part of efforts to sensitize Jamaicans to what they see as the imperatives of liberalisation.

The Manley government has seen the wave of popular support on which it returned to office in 1989 wane under the pain of the adjustment and liberalisation measures. Prices have soared with the elimination of subsidies, the removal of price controls, and the accelerated decline of the Jamaican dollar with the progessive liberalisation, then final removal of exchange controls last September. Inflation last year headed towards 70 per cent.

Social services have also been reduced as the government has cut the public sector deficit, heading for a target of 0.5 per cent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product] for the fiscal year starting in April. The bulk of the public sector deficit is the result of Central Bank losses from its open market monetary stance that has pushed up interest rates to pull money out of the economy. The aim is to dampen demand and take pressure off the Jamaican dollar and cool inflation.

But despite the difficulties, Lalor pointed out that his own group, which includes the Insurance Company of the West Indies (ICWI), Life of Jamaica Insurance Company, and Jamaica Citizens Bank, remained bullish and were investing heavily. Lalor noted that within the past two years, his group had invested U.S. 60 million dollars to purchase and refurbish two hotels and for the acquisition of lands for a third. Additionally, the group has launched a new company, the Cayman Islands-based Global Life, which is taking over the regional portfolio of Manufacturers Life.

Global Life has an authorised capital of U.S. 15 million dollars, of which 6 million has been paid up. ICWI has put in its own investment and borrowed heavily to undertake its new ventures, Lalor said.

"We have borrowed the money because we have faith in liberalisation," said the business executive. He advised the rest of the Caribbean to learn from Jamaica's example, adjust early, and implement the liberalisation processes at an early date.

Said Lalor: "The lesson Jamaica is giving to the rest of the Caribbean is that state regulated economies have failed." The English speaking region, with its small market, should seek to integrate with the other language regions and also bring in Central America.

Added Lalor: "Unless we are prepared to free up the market, free up trade and investment, improve transport and communication, and move towards a really serious regional stock exchange, we are all going to go down the tube."

El Salvador

ONUSAL Communique on FMLN, Government Meeting

PA2401155692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jan 92

["Text" of communique issued by the UN Observers for El Salvador, ONUSAL, from their headquarters in San Salvador; date not given]

[Text] The joint working group formed by delegations from the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], presided over by General Victor Suanzes Pardo, chief of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] military division, began working at ONUSAL central headquarters on 23 January. The objective of this group is to discuss operational issues and enforce the cease-fire agreements that were recently ratified in Mexico City.

The Salvadoran Government delegation headed by General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas and the FMLN delegation headed by Commander Salvador Sanchez are participating in the meetings.

Six FMLN representatives who arrived in San Salvador went to ONUSAL central headquarters to participate in the meetings to be held 23 and 24 January under ONUSAL auspices. Mission leader Iqbal Rizza greeted the delegations as they arrived at headquarters. The ambassadors of Colombia, Spain, Mexico, and Venezuela, the countries that were the friends of the UN secretary general during the negotiations, were also present.

ONUSAL Spokesman Interviewed

PA2401155992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Interview with UN Observers for El Salvador, ONUSAL, official spokesman Mario Zamorano by reporter Julio Ernesto Rodriquez in San Salvador; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Will the FMLN commanders be here for a few days, or will they leave the country?

[Zamorano] I have said and now reiterate that they will remain at least for the meetings on 23 and 24 January. It will obviously be up to them to make a final decision, but officially these ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] meetings are scheduled to take place mornings and afternoons on 23 and 24 January.

[Rodriguez] Just to confirm, are these meetings primarily to discuss the cease-fire and supplementary issues?

[Zamorano] They will discuss operational issues pertaining to the fulfillment of the agreements, specifically concerning the cease-fire, D day, which is 1 February.

[Rodriguez] In any case, if the commanders wish to remain in El Salvador, will ONUSAL transport them to the countryside?

[Zamorano] I am not in a position to answer that question, because it is hypothetical. I am now sticking to the facts. The facts are that we are holding official meetings on 23 and 24 January, which as you well know through the communique your station just read, are being chaired by Gen. Suanzes Pardo, who is the ONUSAL military chief.

[Rodriguez] Thanks to Mario Zamorano, the ONUSAL mission's official spokesman, who referred to the meetings the FMLN and government commissions will hold primarily to discuss the cease-fire.

Rebel Station Comments

PA2401200792 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The arrival in El Salvador of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, commanders who are part of the cease-fire commission is the first step toward reaffirming that the implementation of the peace agreements is under way.

The FMLN commanders did not require an amnesty to enter the country; their arrival was a result of the peace agreements. Their arrival knocked down the weak argument used by some rightist groups as a pretext to demand a general amnesty. Their real intention is to exonerate military men implicated in atrocious crimes. The agreements establish full guarantees permitting FMLN commanders to carry out their duties without restrictions in the various mechanisms of verification and implementation of the peace agreements.

In the next few days we will witness the implementation of other important agreements, such as the approval of the Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] Law, the ratification of constitutional amendments on the Armed Forces, the decree legalizing the Truth Commission, and others.

Effective 1 February, the implementation of the accords will gain speed with the enforcement of the cease-fire, the separation of military forces, and two of the mechanisms to guarantee compliance with the agreements: the new functions of Copaz and the UN Observers for El Salvador.

The nation must be certain that implementation of the peace agreements is on the right track and will not remain on paper only. In that sense, the arrival of the FMLN members to assume their functions within the guarantee mechanisms is a practical aspect confirming that the peace accords are shaping up and that the FMLN is determined to ensure they are fully complied with. This determination and commitment to the nation will be corroborated on 1 February at a great national demonstration to be called by the FMLN to reaffirm that

the people are the main guarantors of the peace accords and will ensure their full compliance.

Cristiani Satisfied With Reconciliation Law

PA2401214192 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Balmore Parada on news conference given by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified reports on 24 January in San Salvador—recorded]

[Text] At noon on 24 January, President Alfredo Cristiani expressed his satisfaction with the approval of the Reconciliation Law with exceptions, which was proposed by the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, before the Legislative Assembly and was unanimously approved.

Cristiani said the Cease-Fire Commission is already preparing the mechanisms that will be implemented effective 1 February. In addition, he said that a plan is being devised to sweep all the mines that have been left in various parts of the country. Here is part of President Cristiani's statement.

[Cristiani] Right now we are trying to define the mechanisms that will be implemented on 1 February when the formal cease-fire begins. We must also delimit the specific areas where the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] will concentrate—15 areas—and, of course, prepare a plan to sweep for all the mines left in the country so people can walk safely without the risk of stepping on a mine.

[Reporter] Although in this new phase we should talk about peace and not war, Humberto Centeno of the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] has reported that 1,000 rifles belonging to the National Guard have disappeared. The UNTS believes those rifles will be used to arm paramilitary groups, which could hinder the peace process. What can you tell us about that, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] First, I have heard no reports and have no knowledge of the disappearance of 1,000 rifles belonging to the National Guard. As you know, the Army has strict control over all its weapons, so any irregularity would be easily detected. I have not received any such report.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Yes, also that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] private meeting with FMLN members. Is that true, and if so, what did you discuss?

[Cristiani] No, I have not met with the FMLN. The only meeting held so far has been with UN Observers for El Salvador and the Cease-Fire Commission in charge of outlining the [words indistinct].

Amnesty Law 'Firm Step Toward Peace'

PA2601233592 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Station commentary: "Amnesty Law, a Firm Step Toward Peace, and a Blow to Impunity."]

[Text] The National Reconciliation Law, also known as the amnesty law, which was approved on 24 January by the Legislative Assembly at the initiative of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, constitutes a firm step toward peace. It is a tangible product of the agreements that resulted from the negotiations and clearly states the schedule for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] incorporation into lawful life.

The law adopted by the legislative branch formalizes the pledges made by the government concerning the FMLN's political participation, the release of political prisoners, and the return to El Salvador of maimed fighters abroad.

For the FMLN and the general public, the amnesty law is an accomplishment because the peace agreements are gradually taking shape. For the defenders of impunity, however, it is a defeat. It represents the failure of their plan to allow the crimes of individuals responsible for atrocious crimes and massacres that shocked the nation to be forgotten and unpunished.

The murderers of the Jesuit priests will not benefit from the amnesty, and neither will the military men who, after the Truth Commission's investigation, are implicated in human rights violations. To the extent that the peace agreements are gradually established, the entire nation will gain confidence and strengthen the agreements as it moves along the path of reconstruction and reconciliation, a path that is based on the firm foundations of democracy, justice, and peace.

FMLN Willing To Surrender Members to Trial

PA2401174492 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 22 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] On 21 January, the Political Committee of the "Feliciano Ama" Western Front voiced its willingness to bring to trial Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] members who may be involved in the murders of rightist politicians after an investigation is conducted.

Commander Arturo Pena said the FMLN is ready to have its members face justice as long as their participation in criminal acts can be corroborated. He did not rule out the possibility that ultra-rightist elements may have murdered politicians to block the negotiating process.

"The FMLN abides by its commitments and has always assumed responsibility for its actions. We do not escape justice. We fight for justice, and it has to be fair," Pena stated.

Regarding the application of the amnesty, Pena said he is opposed to a general amnesty, as proposed by rightist political leaders, who advocate "a broad amnesty and pardon."

Pena said there is a group of military officers and soldiers who have murdered with impunity. He mentioned for example the El Mozote massacre and the cases of the Jesuits and Monsignor Romero, among others, as incidents that cannot go unpunished. "There cannot be a general amnesty; we cannot afford to pardon criminals, because it would set a bad precedent in the country. The truth must be known and responsibilities determined to end impunity," Commander Pena stated.

The guerrilla leader said the murders attributed to the FMLN occurred within the framework of the conflict, and he described them as acts of war that fall under the provisions of the amnesty.

According to the guerrilla leader, the incidents perpetrated by the rebels cannot be compared to those perpetrated by the Armed Forces. The insurgents made the preceding statements in a news conference held in the capital on 21 January.

Report on Verdict in Jesuit Case Trial

PA2501193292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Julio Ernesto Rodriguez; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The two main suspects in the Jesuit murder case were sentenced to 30 years in prison. Three other officers who were found guilty of terrorism and tampering with evidence were sentenced to three years imprisonment.

[Judge Ricardo Zamora] "In the name of the Republic of El Salvador, I hereby submit the following verdict:"

"The accused, Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, of known personal data, is hereby sentenced to 30 years imprisonment charged with the murder of Ignacio and Ascurias Beascochea, Ignacio Martin Baru, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramon Moreno Pardo, Jose Joaquin Lopez Lopez, Amando Lope Quintana, Julia Elba Ramos, and Celina Maliset Ramos. He is also charged with planning and conspiring to carry out terrorism."

Fourth Penal Judge Ricardo Zamora thus sentenced the five military officers who participated in the Central America University massacre. The evidence against them was irrefutable.

In addition to former Colonel Benavides, former Lieutenant Jusy Rene Mendoza Ballesios was also sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of Celina Maliset Ramos.

At the same time, former Lt. Ricardo Espinosa Guerra, former Lt. Gonzalo Guevara Cerritosa, and former Lt. Col. Carlos Camilo Hernandez were sentenced to three years in prison for planning and conspiring to carry out terrorist acts and for destroying all evidence related to records of officers' movements to and from the military academy. This was classified as active concealment by the court.

[Zamora] "The accused, Jusy Rene Mendoza Ballesios, personal data as previously stated, is hereby sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of the youth Celina Maliset Ramos, as well as for planning and conspiring to carry out terrorist acts and active concealment."

"In addition, the accused Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, Jusy Rene Mendoza Ballesios, Jose Ricardo Espinosa Guerra, Gonzalo Guevara Cerritos, and Carlos Camilo Hernandez are hereby sentenced as follows: complete loss of all citizens's rights until such time as they have been completely rehabilitated by the appropriate authorities; complete loss of all civil rights; disqualification from holding any type of public office; disqualification from carrying out duties pertaining to child custody, guardianship, tutorship, or of becoming the member of a family unit during the period of the prison term, unless the accused is hereby rehabilitated."

The verdict, which was made public this morning by the Foutth Penal Court, acquitted all other persons involved in the murder case. Acquitted were Antonio Ramiro Avalos Vargas, Tomas Zarpate Castillo, Angel Perez Vazquez, Oscar Mariano Amaya Grimaldi, and Jorge Alberto Sierra Asencio.

Court assistant Mario Eduardo Marroquin pointed out that the court also took into consideration the fact that there was clear intent by the accused at the time of the massacre. Judge Zamora also stated that at the time of the crime, the military officers clearly endangered the lives of the people who live near the Catholic university.

[Zamora] "In addition, it has been clearly established that there was premeditated malice as they carefully anticipated and planned all details of the events. They used firearms to carry out their plan. In addition, their numeric superiority decreased the possibility of any resistance from the victims. This serves as unquestionable evidence of hostile conduct. Based on the aforementioned, it can stated that the accused were clearly aware of the criminal intent and of the consequences of their actions. This is also direct evidence of premeditation. Given the manner in which it was carried out and the violence involved, it can be rightfully said that it was a deliberate act."

"The events that took place were carried out during the night of 15-16 November 1989. An Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] offensive was under way at the time. This means that at the time San Salvador was on a war footing. We have been able to determine that the accused took advantage of this situation to carry out their criminal act and then instigate an a armed clash. This clearly endangered the safety and security of all persons living near the Jesuit's residence where the events took place. It has also undoubtedly

been established that the events were planned inside the Gerardo Barrios Military Academy located in San Salvador during the night of 15 November 1989. This ensured safety and privacy during the planning phase."

The prison sentence will come into effect once it has been ratified by the honorable First Penal Court of the first central section. Nevertheless, Court assistant Marroquin said that despite the fact that, from a technical point of view, the sentence is irrevocable, the defense attorneys as well as the prosecuting attorney are entitled to present an appeal. In this respect, both parties have three days from the date when they are officially notified of the verdict to issue an appeal. If they decide not to present a motion to repeal the verdict, the accused will be transferred to any of the prisons in El Salvador. It has been reported that former Col. Benavides is currently being held in the Santa Ana Prison.

The District Attorney's Office expressed satisfaction with the verdict against the former military officers. It also pointed out that this office will not present any motion to appeal because the objective of bringing the accused to trial was met.

Only two district attorneys representing the state were present during the reading of the verdict. Prosecutors Edward Sydney Blanco and Henry Campos, who represented the UCA during the trial, were absent. The defense attorneys were also absent.

[Unidentified speaker] "Gentlemen: Col. Benavides and Jusy Rene Mendoza are [words indistinct]. Consequently, we are aware that the number of years each received is in line with the crime and therefore legal. With respect to the other accused, we are also aware that if any of them have been released, then it is [words indistinct]. In this respect we can also say the verdict is in order."

As was explained during the court proceedings, Col. Guillermo Alfredo Benavides could have been sentenced to a prison term of 243 years for all the crimes committed and for which a jury of his peers found him guilty. However, as established by Salvadoran legislation, no person can be sentenced to more than 30 years, which is the maximum prison term in El Salvador.

The Jesuit murder case will not be part of the general amnesty recently passed by the National Assembly because it was an act of war against the civilian population. In November 1989, amid the most intense guerrilla military offensive, select members of the elite Atlactl Battalion trained by the United States broke into UCA installations and proceeded to murder six Jesuit priests. They also murdered two housekeepers who otherwise would have been the only witnesses to the murder. Two years later, a lengthy investigation could still not uncover the identity of all the persons involved and of those who planned the massacre. Of the nine military officers involved, only two have been sentenced by a jury.

The peace agreements between the government and the guerrillas call for the appointment of a truth commission that could possibly uncover the identity of the other high-ranking officers involved in the massacre, issue a moral condemnation, and determine the whole truth about the Jesuit case.

FMLN Commander on Peace Process

PA2701024992 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Salvador Sanchez Ceren, also known as Commander Leonel Gonzalez, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] General Command, arrived unannounced in an area under rebel control in Chalatenango Department on 24 January. Gonzalez arrived in the country on 23 January with four other FMLN commanders to participate in a meeting of the cease-fire subcommission.

Commander Gonzalez said he did not expect to be able to come to Chalatenango, but when the opportunity arose, he was more than willing to come to the rebel areas. Commander Gonzalez arrived in a UN helicopter and was greeted in San Jose Las Flores by members of the National Army for Democracy [END] command.

Upon arriving, Commander Gonzalez spoke to the people while END troops and chiefs gathered in front of the town's church to greet the top FMLN official.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Companions, citizens of Chalatenango, chieftains, fellow fighters: My arrival in Chalatenango has been a surprise because the tasks we were carrying out were limited strictly to San Salvador. When the opportunity arose to come to work at our front, I did not hesitate.

I am moved because we have already begun a new stage in the life of El Salvador; building a new El Salvador. This is the product of the people's struggle, of all our fighters, and the contribution of all our leaders, like Dimas, Jesus, Susana, and Ana Maria [Melida Anaya Montes], who spilled their blood, but also gave us the strength to continue and arrive at this new stage. [applause]

We survived a very difficult negotiation process. We negotiated for two years, and the process was very difficult. But our faith, convictions, and principles made us creative and wise. We knew that the future of our country was being decided. [applause]

Many families from Chalatenango and the rest of the country gave their lives for this future. Sacrifices were made by many fighters who fell in the struggle, many leaders of the people's movement, and many FMLN leaders who died in the tyranny's jails. Many of those disappeared and many fathers and sons still do not know where their relatives' bodies are.

It was that situation which allowed us to continue and not hesitate. We knew we were right and that the people,

the organized people, the armed people, supported us. Our struggle has not been in vain. The next stage signifies great changes for El Salvador. It is part of what we wanted, what we fought for, and what we must defend so it is fulfilled.

It is also important to recognize what we are celebrating each day. We have been celebrating continuously since 16 January when we signed the Mexico agreements. Our people are permanently happy, and each day brings more surprises. It is important that we recognize and remember that the FMLN's unity enabled us to achieve this. The guarantee of the coming moment is the capacity each of us has to feel the FMLN is our organization, our representation, and that the FMLN will guarantee the agreements made with the government, which will be supervised by the people and the international community. All this is only possible inasmuch as the FMLN strengthens, rejuvenates, and becomes the political and electoral alternative for the 1994 elections.

Each of us will be responsible for closely verifying the agreements' implementation. A reconciliation law was also agreed upon in Mexico on 23 January, guaranteeing that our people will learn the truth about the many atrocities committed against human rights in El Salvador. The Army, the security forces, and the death squads are mainly responsible for these tragedies suffered by our people. The truth will be known. The people involved in these atrocities will be discovered. The reconciliation law states the truth must be known [applause].

We are in a new process. The new El Salvador needs to build its own trust. We need confidence in the future. We also need to become elements of reconciliation for Salvadoran society. Salvadoran society is battered and divided. Our families are divided, while the future needs a united El Salvador, a united family, a united society. To this end, it is also necessary to have forgiveness, and for this there must be truth. The truth must be as broad as possible so society can find forgiveness [applause].

Because of the agreements signed in Mexico on 23 January, I have decided to celebrate 1 February as the founding date of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace. We hope and believe that the whole nation will celebrate this day as one of unification of the Salvadoran People; as the day the process to reconstruct Salvadoran society began. It is a day that marks the beginning of a deep transformation process in Salvadoran society and of the demilitarization process. This country must be demilitarized because the war has ended and some of the problems that brought about the conflict are now being solved. To this end, and as of 1 February, the Army must gradually move to the barracks and guerrilla units must converge at certain places. The people must feel free to move all around the country and to demonstrate, organize, and struggle for these agreements to be fulfilled as signed.

The total process of eliminating those elements who inherited a military dictatorship has also begun. [applause] The security forces will begin to disappear, and a new police force has been created. It is a new police force that must respect human rights. It must respect human dignity and life. [applause] The process of reducing the Army will also begin. The Army must start to disassemble its counterinsurgency units and its quick deployment battalions. It must reduce troops deployed in the departments where counterinsurgency units are stationed. The disappearance of the civilian defense forces, the rural patrols, which have a terrible history throughout the country and are the cause of repression and [word indistinct], is necessary.

The legalization process of the FMLN political party will also begin. On 1 February, our FMLN leaders, the general commanders, the negotiation team, the various commissions created by the agreements, and the main FMLN leadership will come together to take part in our country's political life. They will come to tell our people about the political alternative that is the FMLN and about its political programs. Its main foundation is contained in the agreements: a society where the civilian population determines our future; a society where there is democracy, freedom to organize, freedom of speech, freedom to go where we please; a society where the economic power that lies in just a few hands is changed to allow equal distribution of wealth.

In accordance with the agreements, a national dialogue forum will be created with the participation of our grass-roots organizations, the government, and private enterprise. That forum will deal with our people's extreme poverty and will discuss why the prices of staple goods in El Salvador are way out of reach of the workers. As of 1 February the legalization process for the lands within the conflict areas will begin. All the inhabitants there, our fighting men, have a right to those lands. [applause]

This will change one of the things that caused the war in El Salvador, the fact that the land was in the hands of only a few, in a country where the majority of inhabitants are peasants. This constituted a great injustice that lead a large part of the population, particularly peasants, to rise up in arms and bring about this heroic campaign we are celebrating. [applause] What is beginning to form now in El Salvador is a new stage, a new period of big change. Our people must be the fundamental guarantee that these changes come about. The FMLN must be the main guarantor that these agreements are implemented. Although we had ample international support, we personally, on behalf of our fighters and the inhabitants of our fronts, must express deep recognition for the UN team, particularly former Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. [applause]

Many new things are coming. It is in our hands to build a new El Salvador, to rebuild the country. Now we must fill our minds with optimism. What lies ahead is a struggle within another context; a political struggle. It

will need the support, participation, and sacrifice of each of us. We must now commit ourselves to standing by our people because the foundations are being set for a country where there is social justice and freedom.

It is also important for us to remember our fallen friends. The greatest recognition we can give them is our commitment to carry on fighting. We can take no steps backward. Right now our people must move forward, and that is the best homage we can offer our lost comrades. [applause]

In recognition of our fighters, our commanders, our leaders, and all those sons of the fatherland who gave their blood to reach this new stage in El Salvador, I ask you now to observe one minute of silence in their honor.

Commander Jesus, [crowd shouts: "present"]; Commander Ana Maria [Melida Anaya Montes], [crowd shouts: "present"]; Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza [Jose Alberto Ramos], [crowd shouts: "present"]; Commander Susana, [crowd shouts: "present"]; for all our combatants, [crowd shouts: "present"]; for all the sons of the fatherland who have given their blood, [crowd shouts: "present"]. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Government Condemns Execution of Cuban Dissident

PA2401194192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] The Salvadoran Government on 23 January condemned the execution of a Cuban dissident who was charged by Fidel Castro's government with planning to [word indistinct] on that island. A Foreign Ministry communique strongly condemned the death sentence imposed on Eduardo Diaz Betancourt. According to the Foreign Ministry, the sentence imposed on Diaz Betancourt for the crime of dissenting from the Castro regime and wanting freedom and democracy for his country was excessive and unfair.

The government also condemned the 30-year jail terms handed down to Daniel Santovenia Fernandez and Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez, who are accused of cooperating with Diaz Betancourt.

Guatemala

Defense Minister: Rebels No Military Threat

PA2401192692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Interview with Defense Minister General Domingo Garcia Samayoa by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Militarily speaking, the guerrillas do not exist for us. They do not control territory, nor do they maintain constant operations. They have never launched operations in the capital, and they have never occupied half of Guatemalan territory, as they have claimed. I have serious doubts concerning their military actions, which are conducted in the form of terror, robberies, etc. These are not military acts. In addition, they have not come close to the capital. I have stated this emphatically.

The political side of this is the dialogue. We are working in this direction. However, the globalization of the situation demands an end to our internal armed conflict. Conditions for the attainment of peace should be promoted. The people want peace.

As long as the forms of aggression continue, be they ideological, material, or doctrinaire, this necessarily has to be considered an offense against the Guatemalan people, not against the Army in particular.

[Reporter] If the guerrillas do not exist militarily, then why the need for a dialogue?

[Garcia] I am not saying now that militarily....

[Reporter, interrupting] Why the need for a dialogue?

[Garcia] The dialogue is necessary to find a political solution to a continuing internal armed struggle. In other words, the dialogue represents a politically negotiated solution to the internal armed struggle, which has lasted more than 30 years.

If they had already laid down their weapons, it would not be necessary for us to launch security or military operations. We did not begin the conflict, and we are not going to be responsible for it. They have waged war on us since the sixties. Consequently, they will have to realize that, 30 years later, their doctrinaire and ideological concepts have disappeared.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] newspapers have been informed through a war bulletin that [words indistinct] 1,700 casualties inflicted on the Army. Can you explain....

[Garcia, interrupting] Listen, they are very good at telling lies and reporting alarming news. There is no reason for us to hide our number of dead. We have been very clear with the media. We have reported our casualties in combat; we have reported when our units are undamaged and when they have lost one or two rifles. Naturally, this is the way war goes. But they are exaggerating on paper conditions they cannot realize in the field.

[Reporter] How many casualties did the Army sustain?

[Garcia] Five officers and approximately 22 soldiers were killed last year.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] It would lead us nowhere. We definitely have to understand what we are actually seeking with dialogue and negotiations. The truth is that all clashes must end. It must be understood that having weapons and adopting a hostile attitude will not force anyone to move away from the legal framework. It has all been established within a constitutional process. The negotiation is taking

place within that framework. It is useless to persist in a hostile attitude against unarmed communities, against peaceful citizens riding buses or carrying their goods in trucks who are forced to listen to useless speeches.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the United States to suspend economic aid to Guatemala [words indistinct].

[Garcia] This is a matter we have been trying to overcome, not because we have been pressured but because we have a moral obligation. We have a need, all Guatemalans have a need, to respect human rights. Conditions must not be imposed, but respect for human rights must be considered an obligation of conscience and responsibility. I will not comment on whether the aid is suspended because of such and such circumstances.

[Reporter] Do you believe that, following the signing of the peace agreements in El Salvador, the international community will pressure Guatemala to negotiate?

[Garcia] They cannot pressure us. I believe those who do not want to yield to these situations must be aware of that. I say and the government has clearly said: We are ready to sign a peace agreement tomorrow. We say the same. The Guatemalan Army totally agrees with this. It totally identifies with the negotiation process. We are going to continue with it, but we are not going to stop fulfilling our constitutional duties.

Government Denies Pressure for Peace Agreements

PA2501034192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 92 pp 2, 64

[Text] Government officials on 23 January denied allegations of international pressure to hasten the ratification of peace agreements and expressed optimism about the resumption of the talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), which are under way in Mexico.

It leaked out at the National Palace that the URNG command and the government have been under pressure to hasten the talks and arrive at a peace agreement as soon as possible. Nevertheless, Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa and Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, secretary of public relations for the Presidency, denied these reports.

Garcia Samayoa denied reports of alleged international pressure and emphasized that "the only pressure we are faced with is from our own consciences, which we will structure very well. We made a pledge to the Guatemalan people to achieve total and permanent peace."

The insurgents, Garcia Samayoa said, have already been defeated by the people on two occasions—in the voting booth the citizens voted in favor of consolidating democracy. They also defeated them 30 years ago. The guerrillas have never had the people's support. Militarily the guerrillas have no chance.

Garcia Samayoa said that the Army is optimistic about the resumption of the talks, which will continue on 24 January in Mexico. As defense minister, he said, I am optimistic about the dialogue because it is a popular issue of which the people should be aware. The URNG should not condition or manipulate people's desires, he concluded.

Asturias Montenegro also dispelled rumors of pressure, saying that instead of exerting pressure, the international community has offered its support for the achievement of peace in Guatemala. The government, he stressed, has reiterated to the entire world its intention to struggle insistently for the prompt ratification of a reconciliation agreement.

The government commission formed by Presidency Secretary General Manuel Conde Orellana, Defense Minister Gen. Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa, Gen. Mario Enriquez, Gen. Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, and Adviser Amilcar Burgos traveled to Mexico on 23 January to continue their "mediation" efforts.

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister Meets With Media Directors

PA2701031992

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network at 1700 GMT on 25 January features on its "National Forum" program an 80-minute recording of a meeting between Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and several unidentified media directors on 22 January at the Presidential Palace in Managua.

Lacayo begins by stating that they will analyze two "tremendously important" topics: the effects of the Salvadoran peace agreements signed on 16 January in Mexico City and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Nicaragua. Lacayo says: "It is essential for the media to fully understand this and share the information."

The minister says the end of the Salvadoran conflict "may have serious consequences for Nicaragua," because "competition for foreign aid will become much more critical, much more difficult." He reminds them that "Nicaragua previously received enormous amounts of aid from the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries, which are no longer sending aid because they are now knocking on the same doors" Nicaragua knocks on to get aid.

Lacayo refers to the media's reports that Baker discussed the police and land ownership issues during his visit. Referring to the second issue, he says: "This should not be seen from an ideological or political viewpoint," meaning it should be considered proof of the U.S. Government's concern for Nicaragua's welfare rather than a way of "pressuring the Nicaraguan Government." In fact, people must realize that the country will lose every opportunity to attract foreign investment "if the

situation in Nicaragua does not return to normal and if there are no guarantees that foreign business investments will be protected," he adds.

Lacayo turns to the issue of the Nicaraguan police and reminds everyone: "The United States did not come here to propose the creation of a new police force, as in El Salvador, or to tell Nicaraguans how police should act." The problem is that reports sent abroad by the media "give the impression that there is no police force" in Nicaragua, meaning that "the police act in a biased way." Baker "brought an offer to help" in this sector, Lacayo says. He added: "This is something new," because the U.S. Government "previously refused to help the country's Army, police, or any body involved with the military."

A media director refers to Nicaragua's plans for the future: the need for stability, peace, and an appropriate economic plan, and the different beliefs about the role of police in society. He says he wants to know about the government's plans for the police.

Lacayo explains that foreign investments are extremely important for the government because "Nicaragua had accumulated the largest foreign debt in the world." It was able to overcome the crisis "due to funds provided by foreign investment." Referring to the police, he says: "Requesting technological support, training, and technical advice" does not imply "letting another country change the mentality of our police," which "is what the Somoza dictatorship did."

A second media director talks about the need for stability and specific economic plans for development. He asks if Nicaragua's economic situation will change in 1992.

The presidency minister explains that "the government strived to achieve stability" in 1991 despite the odds. He emphasizes: "This is only the first rung of a tall ladder the country must climb." Likewise, the contra and recontra crisis was previously depicted as praiseworthy, but a majority has realized that this only causes more death and sorrow in the country.

A third media director talks about U.S. aid for Nicaragua and asks if there are any strings attached to that aid.

The Presidency minister says that "Secretary Baker's visit is a confirmation of the White House's commitment, meaning President Bush's commitment, to Nicaragua," even though Congress has the last word on this. He adds that "a lot depends on the Nicaraguan people," because "the only condition that Secretary Baker mentioned was that rights should be respected and democracy should be strengthened."

A fourth media director asks about plans for the police and the type of assistance requested from other countries.

Lacayo explains that the police are now being advised by the Spanish, Mexican, Venezuela, and French police. He adds that "the Nicaraguan people know best what is appropriate for them." Everyone should keep this in mind "instead of trying to exploit it for political purposes."

Minister Regrets End of ONUCA Mandate

PA2501021792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 12

[Report by Emilio Zambrana]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has described the withdrawal of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] troops as a risk for Nicaragua's budding democracy, because there are still outbreaks of violence among the demobilized members of the resistance, which have been dealt with by ONUCA, along with other international organizations.

The mandate of ONUCA forces in Nicaragua will conclude in April in view of the United Nation's possible refusal to extend the organization's stay in Nicaragua. The extension was requested by the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments, but everything seems to indicate that the die have been cast.

In fact, certain Central American governments, especially Nicaragua's, have expressed fear that ONUCA will be absorbed by ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] due to the signing of the peace agreements in El Salvador, and that Nicaragua will somehow lose that international organization's aid for the consolidation of peace and democratization, which Mrs. Chamorro's government is promoting.

ONUCA forces were guarantors of the demobilization and the safety of members of the defunct Nicaraguan Resistance. In the opinion of political observers, ONUCA was committed to the country's democratization and to efforts to verify Nicaragua's peace agreements.

"Nicaragua has asked the UN secretary general to extend ONUCA's mandate, but there has been no answer," said Foreign Minister Leal, who spoke with new UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali in Mexico during the ratification of the peace agreement between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Salvadoran Government.

Apparently the funds earmarked for ONUCA will be transferred in full to ONUSAL to guarantee and verify the pacification process that will begin on 1 February in El Salvador's former war zones.

Foreign Minister Leal disclosed to LA PRENSA that the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments sent messages to the UN secretary general regarding the need for ONUCA troops to remain in war zones such as the Gulf of Fonseca.

"ONUCA's presence is necessary," said Leal, hinting that even if peace is achieved in Central America, it is necessary to have peacemaking bodies that can contribute each country's internal democratization.

Leal made it clear that he knows from similar experiences that abnormal situations, such as those the country is currently experiencing, emerge following a war. ONUCA's presence is therefore necessary so it can contribute, along with Nicaraguan authorities, to the quest for stability and definitive peace.

Although Nicaragua's request to extend ONUCA's mandate was denied by the United Nations, Foreign Minister Leal urged Nicaraguan society to work tenaciously with the economic assistance granted by friendly countries. He insisted that only Nicaraguans working together "can improve the country's economic situation and, therefore, achieve peace and stability."

The withdrawal of ONUCA troops and their transfer to ONUSAL to verify and guarantee the pacification process in El Salvador has been described by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo as a risk, due to the possibility that donor countries may tilt their economic aid toward El Salvador.

Political analysts agree that in view of this phenomenon—peace in El Salvador—which has monopolized world attention, Nicaragua should make a greater effort to continue to be considered a priority country for foreign economic aid.

LA PRENSA attempted to contact Colonel Ricardo Mora, chief of ONUCA in Nicaragua, so he could expand on the motives that led this UN organization to decline to extend its stay in Nicaragua, but his secretary said that "he is currently on a tight schedule."

The fact is that ONUCA's withdrawal closes a historic chapter not only in Nicaragua, but in Central America, where ONUCA played a preponderant role in the region's quest for peace.

Panama

Bomb Damages Newspaper Publishing House

PA2601023892 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0150 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Radio audiences throughout the country, we interrupt our regular programming to give you a report of general interest. A few moments ago an explosive device was thrown at the installations of the Panama America publishing house. Our cameramen recorded these scenes.

According to reports, there was considerable damage at the installations, and so far it is not known whether the EL PANAMA AMERICA newspaper will be published on 26 January, although efforts are being made to publish the paper, even if with fewer pages.

Security guards at the Panama America Publishing House said one of the occupants of a moving vehicle hurled the explosive device and immediately fled. The scenes were filmed a few minutes ago outside the Panama America Publishing House just as Fire Department Security Office personnel, the Judicial Technical Police, and National Police began their investigation.

EL PANAMA AMERICA newspaper Director Dr. Carlos Mendoza described the incident as an attack against freedom of expression. These are the statements he made a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Mendoza] [Words indistinct] this was one of the bombs that have been planted during these last few days. The important thing is that if EL PANAMA AMERICA newspaper was not silenced by the dictatorship for a whole generation, this will not silence it. We are unaware of how much damage has been caused, but you may be absolutely sure that if [the company's founder] Harmodio Arias could not be silenced, we will not be silenced either.

[Reporter] Have you received bomb threats?

[Mendoza] Definitely.

[Rosario Arias de Galindo, president of the Panama America Publishing House] Unfortunately, this is one those things one does not think will ever happen. I condemn all sorts of terrorism and injury to others. We are trying to defend liberty and democracy, and no one has the right to try and silence us with terror. This is an attack against all Panamanians who love liberty. [end recording]

[Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish at 0220 GMT on 26 January reports that "there was some damage to the Panama America publishing house, but the presses were apparently unharmed, and it is expected that the newspapers EL PANAMA AMERICA and CRITICA LIBRE will be published on 26 January with more details on this new attack on Panamanian media."]

Paper Reports Attack

PA2601233692 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Jan 92 pp 2a, 3a

[Article by Nayla Montenegro and Raul Bernal]

[Text] The Panama America Publishing House, Inc. (EPASA), which publishes the dailies EL PANAMA AMERICA and CRITICA LIBRE, was the target of a criminal "terrorist" attack on the afternoon of 25 January when an explosive device hit the building. The attack caused considerable damage and threatened the lives of dozens of the company's workers.

There was panic in EPASA when the explosion was heard and the staff evacuated the building, which was quickly filled with heavy smoke.

"Fire...run, the building is on fire...leave everything...we must get out...," the workers shouted as they desperately searched for their belongings before leaving the place.

The smoke spread throughout the publishing house while the workers tried to leave the building. Once they

were outside, they noticed a crowd was gathering while the fire fighters arrived to put out the fire.

From the outside, the seriousness of the attack was quite evident, with the flames trying to destroy everything. It was sad to see what was happening and to feel useless and defenseless.

Friends of the Arias-Galindo family, persons living close to the publishing house, reporters, and others arrived to voice their support for EPASA President Rosario Arias de Galindo.

Endara Condemns Bombing

PA2601042892 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0311 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Panama City, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara and several politicians have condemned the attack carried out on 25 January against the publishing house that edits EL PANAMA AMERICA and CRITICA LIBRE in this capital.

Endara, who once had a confrontation with this publishing house over reports printed in its newspapers, has asked security organizations to investigate the attack thoroughly and has issued an encouraging message to the newspapers' directors.

Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon also rejected the attack and described it as the work of terrorists who miss the dictatorship.

The EL PANAMA AMERICA publishing house suffered a fire that, according to the enterprise's management, was caused by an incendiary bomb thrown from a vehicle by unidentified persons.

According to police spokesmen, no one was injured, but the publishing house's administrative offices were seriously damaged by the fire, which engulfed part of the building located in downtown Panama City.

Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha agrees with publishing house officers that the fire was produced by a Molotov cocktail and characterized the action as "an attack against freedom of expression." [passage omitted]

LA PRENSA, a Panamanian daily, has offered its facilities to EL PANAMA AMERICA publishing house so EL PANAMA AMERICA and CRITICA LIBRE may circulate on Sunday, 26 January. [passage omitted]

Endara Creates Elite Antiterrorist Group

PA2401170792 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] In view of a wave of terrorist attacks in Panama, President Guillermo Endara's government has ordered the creation of a special antiterrorist group called the Elite Tactical Weapons Unit [Unidad Elite de Armas Tacticas], a source at the state intelligence services has revealed.

Information gathered by this newspaper indicates that the main goal of the elite unit is to dismantle terrorist groups with the highest degree of force and intelligence mechanisms provided by public security organizations.

The new antiterror group is made up of at least 45 men who are trusted by the government. The Institutional Protection Service, National Police, and Judicial Technical Police each provided 15 men.

The source added that the group is already training in Panama but will later travel to the United States, Puerto Rico, and Israel to receive training at higher levels.

It was also reported that the Endara administration created a special fund to pay informers to detect the possible activities of groups that may try to destabilize the country.

Meanwhile, it is known that Pedro Lopez Barria, alias Pepo, a former G-2 [intelligence office] member who is considered to be one of the main contacts in La Chorrera of former soldiers Carlos Saldana and Alcibiades de la Cruz [who are linked to recent terrorist attacks], is under surveillance.

Police Arrest Suspect in Terrorist Actions

PA2501220392 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Ciro Ortega]

[Text] It has been reported that the Institutional Protection Service and the police have arrested a former soldier suspected of involvement in the recent terrorist actions. The man's name is Martirio Herrera and he is being questioned at Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] headquarters.

[Begin recording, Assistant Prosecutor Rogelio Arosemena] I was informed early on 24 January that the former soldier, who is nicknamed Martirio, had been arrested. [end recording]

Arosemena stressed that Martirio may have a criminal record and that, according to the information obtained, he helped former Colonel Eduardo Herrera escape from Naos Island prison on 4 December 1990. Apparently Ricardo Herrera, Martirio, was to seize the police headquarters in David, Chiriqui, on 5 December 1990, but was unable to accomplish his mission. He is under arrest and is suspected of being involved in the recent terrorist actions.

[Begin Assistant Prosecutor Rogelio Arosemena recording, in progress] ...a selection and an investigation had to be carried out. These procedures lead us to former Panama Defense Forces officers since they have the

proper training and knowledge to carry out these actions and to manufacture the explosive devices. [end recording]

Martirio is being questioned at PTJ headquarters. He is the first former soldier to be arrested in connection with the terrorist actions.

Chiriqui Province on 'State of Alert'

PA2501215892 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 8

[Article by Luis Gaitan V.]

[Text] Chiriqui Province authorities have been placed on a state of alert in response to destabilizing actions such as those carried out by the so-called 20 December Movement, which has planted bombs.

The Chiriqui Governor's Office is in constant communication with the office of the president of the Republic. Governor Edgar De Puy has ordered air patrol operations along the Chiriqui coast.

Staff members of the Police Investigation Department [DIP], the Judicial Technical Police, and the Attorney General's Office are on the alert for any situation that may arise in Chiriqui.

Certain situations that occurred in 1990 and 1991 in Chiriqui could be considered the onset of destabilizing actions. For example, bombs were planted on electricity poles in Las Lomas, Querevalos, and David. In addition, there was an attack against the Club David, reportedly involving a Captain Moreno. DIP units under Lieutenant Falcon managed to restore order.

In 1990 it was said there were alleged guerrillas in Chiriqui Province, but these reports turned out to be mere rumors, although people still insist there are armed groups in the area. On one occasion, someone fired an AK-47 and hit the right wing of a Pillan plane that was patrolling the area bordering Burica.

Recent rumors about the entry of weapons at the Paso Canoas border have Institutional Protection Service [SPI] units in Chiriqui on alert. The SPI is concerned over Soviet- and Czechoslovak-made AK-47 rifles that the defunct Panama Defense Forces abandoned in a truck in Volcan and other places in the province.

Less than 20 percent of those weapons were recovered by authorities and U.S. troops after the invasion. It is believed that some of those weapons remain in the province.

Police Conduct Counterinsurgency Operations

PA2501234992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 1A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] The national government on 24 January deployed a contingent of 200 men from the Public Force [FP] and the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] in the Pacora mountains. The men were dressed in combat gear and were sent to dismantle alleged rebel groups in that area. The operation was conducted a few hours after the arrest of former 2d Lieutenant Ricardo "Martirio" Herrera of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP], who is considered to be among those responsible for the terrorist actions that took place in Panama.

The policemen were carrying M-16 rifles and were wearing olive drab uniforms with red marks on the left sleeve. They were transported in FP 10-wheel vehicles to areas where rebel groups seeking to destabilize the government of President Guillermo Endara are thought to be.

Authorities set up several road blocks on the way to Pacora, Chepo, and Darien, where members of both the National Police [PN] and the PTJ were carrying M-16 rifles and wearing bulletproof vests.

According to police sources, the counterinsurgency operation began on the afternoon of 24 January with the participation of National Air Service planes.

Security groups began the operation in the Pacora mountains after 2d Lt. Ricardo Herrera was arrested in Pedregal. Herrera is the former chief of the Peace Battalion headquartered on the Panama-Costa Rica border.

The PTJ arrested Herrera at a bus stop, then took him to PTJ headquarters, where it was reported that further investigations will be conducted to dismantle the subversive group.

Herrera was reportedly very hostile toward PTJ officers, but he was allowed to telephone his lawyer.

Martirio, (the alias by which he was known in the FDP), participated in the movement led by Colonel Eduardo Herrera in December 1990.

It was also reported that the former officer was taken on 24 January to the Council for Public Security and National Defense to be interrogated by officials from the PTJ, the PN, and the Attorney General's Office on the alleged actions of subversive groups.

Earlier this month there were several terrorist attacks in Panama City, including the firing of an RPG-18 missile at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy building.

Authorities had warned of alleged plans to assault the Presidency of the Republic and oust President Guillermo Endara. The tentative date for this type of commando action is reportedly next 31 January [date as published].

'Common Criminals' Sought

PA2701000992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Jan 92 p 4A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] National Police Director Osvaldo Fernandez said on 25 January that the operation conducted by the country's main security forces in Pacora and Cerro Azul was intended to apprehend criminals at large.

In a news conference held at National Air Service [SAN] facilities, Fernandez said police were not looking for guerrilla groups. In reply to a question about why the National Police and the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] had deployed their forces in the area to search for common criminals, Fernandez said the idea had been to save fuel, not to seek subversives.

Operation "Ship of Dawn" included 197 members of the PTJ and National Police and officials from the Immigration Department, SAN, the National Maritime Service, and the Deputy Prosecutor General's Office.

According to Fernandez, the police operation resulted in the confiscation of cocaine, crack, and 19 firearms, including .22-caliber and .38-caliber revolvers, shotguns, and ammunition.

Fernandez made his remarks after this newspaper received intelligence reports that the government's security agencies would initiate a counterinsurgency operation in the mountains of Pacora, Cerro Azul, and Chepo to disable such groups, which are considered responsible for masterminding the terrorist acts that have taken place in Panama City in the past few days.

On 24 January, National Police and PTJ members were deployed at strategic points on the highway to Darien. The men wore combat gear, complete with M-16 rifles, bulletproof vests, and fatigues with a red badge on the left sleeve.

The "Ship of Dawn" operation started minutes after PTJ members captured Ricardo Herrera, also known as Martirio, in Pedregal. Herrera, an ex-lieutenant of the now defunct Panama Defense Forces, is regarded as one of the perpetrators of the terrorist acts committed in Panama City.

Lawyers Object to Visit by Noriega's Attorneys

PA2501233592 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 4C

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A group of Panamanian lawyers on 24 January went to the Attorney General's Office and accused ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega's defense attorneys of illegally practicing law. They asked that Noriega's lawyers not be allowed to leave Panama.

The legal suit is signed by lawyers Sidney Sitton, Maria Carrillo, Guillermo Morales, and Victor Mendez. It was filed against Noriega's attorneys Frank Rubino, Joaquin Fernandez, Leon Tolso, and John May.

The local lawyers claim that practicing law in Panama is reserved exclusively for Panamanian nationals who have been issued a license by the Supreme Court of Justice. Otherwise, it is considered a violation of Law No. 9 of 18 April 1984.

The Supreme Court accepted a request by U.S. Judge William Hoeveler to allow Noriega's lawyers to personally interrogate former officers Nivaldo Madrinan, Cleto Hernandez, and Licinio Miranda, who will be defense witnesses in the drug-trafficking case in Miami against Panama's former strongman.

Meanwhile, Noriega's lawyers Joaquin Fernandez and Leon Tolso and Guy Lewis, a member of the prosecution in Miami, met on 24 January with Panamanian Judge Joaquin Ortega to coordinate the questioning of the former officers.

Although Ortega said they will be questioned on 27 January, other sources told EL PANAMA AMERICA that the questioning began on 24 January.

The questioning of Madrinan, Hernandez, and Miranda will be recorded on video and presented at the Miami court where the trial is being conducted.

Argentina

Menem, Leaders Hold Talks With UK Minister

Meets With Garel-Jones

PY2401205092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jan 92 p 1, 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—British Deputy Foreign Secretary Tristan Garel-Jones met President Carlos Menem in the Olivos presidential residence yesterday for approximately one hour of talks along with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and British Ambassador in Argentina Humphrey Maud.

After the meeting it was officially announced that Garel-Jones had confirmed that the British Government would officially invite Menem, who on several occasions said he wished to visit Great Britain, to officially tour the country in 1993.

The deputy foreign secretary also said that a number of British firms were interested in the future privatization of water and gas services in Argentina.

In addition Garel-Jones praised Menem asserting that the Argentine head-of-state "is responsible for the re-institution," of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Argentina and Great Britain had cut off diplomatic contact when the Malvinas War broke out in 1982. Maud stated to a Buenos Aires radio also yesterday that the war had been a "tragic event for us."

An official communique released by Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo meanwhile said that Garel-Jones had suggested Menem not visit Britain during this year.

"Garel-Jones commented that during 1992 the electoral campaign and elections will take place in Britain and also that the UK will be in charge of the EEC presidency," the communique reads.

The communique also confirmed that the "British Government would officially invite" President Menem to tour the country next year. If the trip takes place Menem would become the first Argentine head of state to arrive in British soil after the Malvinas conflict.

The official report on the deputy foreign secretary's official visit added that "the British minister pointed out to President Menem the recent changes in (British) public opinion which now views the economy of Argentina favourably. The deputy foreign secretary also showed interest and said that British firms wished to take part in the future privatization of Argentina's gas and water works."

Garel-Jones is scheduled to sign a series of agreements on airline services and work authorizations for the families of diplomats currently serving in Argentina Garel-Jones will meet Di Tella today at the Palacio San Martin to sign the accords.

Series of Agreements Signed

PY2701012492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA)—British Deputy Foreign Secretary Tristan Garel-Jones signed a series of agreements with his Argentine counterpart Guido di Tella yesterday ranging from air services, which will increase flight frequencies between London and Buenos Aires, to authorizing the spouses of British diplomats serving in this country to work during their stay and also visas for Hong Kong.

Two separate signing ceremonies took place during the day at the Palacio San Martin. The visitor also held talks with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

After the first ceremony the British deputy foreign secretary stated that "Argentina is already in the First World." Garel-Jones added that he hoped that "many investments" from Britain could arrive to the country because the economic policy currently being carried out by the government is "the right one." However, the British official did not confirm that a number of UK firms were interested in taking over the soon-to-be-privatized Argentine gas and waterworks companies.

Di Tella meanwhile said that Garel-Jones' visit to the country "symbolizes the end of the conflict," between the two countries following the 1982 Malvinas war. "This is the opening of a fruitful relationship," Di Tella told a local radio station. The minister described the current Anglo-Argentine diplomatic relations as excellent. "These agreements have a practical importance and are usual between nations that have normal diplomatic relations," he said.

In addition Garel-Jones said that "we started to discuss" matters related to the Malvinas, but he added "they were only a start." Finally the minister reported that "we're deciding the possible date" for President Carlos Menem's trip to Britain.

Garel-Jones denied in an interview published yesterday by the financial daily AMBITO FINANCIERO that any relevant progress was made in the bi-lateral negotiations on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

Both Di Tella and Garel Jones said that they "had agreed not to agree" on the Malvinas question, the latter telling reporters that the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands "was not included in the agenda. We don't want to confront with theoretical problems that we don't have to look into now."

Garel-Jones Briefs Pres[illegible]

PY2701013292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 92 p 1

[By "NT-AGC"]

[Text] In the last part of his 36-hour visit to Argentina, British Deputy Foreign Secretary Tristan Garel-Jones, held a press conference at the British Embassy yesterday evening.

On opening his talk, speaking in fluent Spanish, Garel-Jones said his visit should be seen as having no special meaning or issue, but to hold talks on common, everyday matters, sign some bi-lateral agreements and exchange ideas on international issues of common interest. When asked if there were any inconveniences on the part of his government to the announced visit of President Carlos Menem to Britain, Garel-Jones said, "Not only are there no inconveniences whatsoever, quite on the contrary, the British Government openly welcomes President Menem as the craftsman of the re-established bilateral diplomatic ties between our countries."

Garel-Jones added that as general elections are to be held in Britain during the first half of this year and the UK takes its post as president of the European Community during the second half, 1992 promises to be a busy year on both the bureaucratic and the political arena, making it difficult to organize an official visit on such short notice. "Thus," Garel-Jones added "I believe 1993 will be a much more suitable year." On the agenda of the visit he indicated that no draft of the issues to be tackled had been prepared yet.

Questioned on whether Menem's trip to the UK was considered an "official" or "state" visit Garel-Jones said, "I believe the British agenda of state visits is prepared with more time in advance, visits are now being scheduled for 1994/5, approximately two years ahead "to my knowledge, while official, commercial or diplomatic visits take place throughout the year, only two state visits a year are carried out."

Asked if the UK would accept submitting the Malvinas issue to arbitration, Garel-Jones said "Neither President Menem or any other member of the government has, officially or unofficially, made such a proposal."

On the sovereignty of the disputed islands and if the issue would be part of the agenda, the British diplomat said, "The commonly agreed policy which keeps the sovereignty issue under what has been described as an 'umbrella' during bilateral talks, has worked for the benefit of both parties, therefore it would be unwise to close this umbrella."

Consulted on which were the matters of bilateral interest discussed with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Garel-Jones mentioned the Antarctic Treaty, Mercosur [Common Market of the South], the Environment Conference to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June, fisheries and seismic prospection in the Malvinas maritime basin.

Asked if Argentine oil companies would be allowed to operate in the area, Garel-Jones said, "We have agreed to allow seismic prospection and research. At a later stage, once the feasibility of finding oil resources has been assessed, we shall discuss the way in which these may be recovered, we are not interested in facing, at this stage, discussions we may not need to go through. Whatever the outcome of these seismic surveys, the information will be made available to all those interested. Requested if the possibility of establishing flights between Argentina and Malvinas had been discussed with Di Tella, Garel-Jones said no such talks were held.

Fielding questions on the possibility of holding a joint reconciliation ceremony marking the 10th Anniversary of the Malvinas War, Garel-Jones said, "Yes, we have looked into this matter and reached an agreement that such ceremonies would take place to the extent that both countries consider them to be proper. The UK and Argentina are democratic countries, therefore there's no reason why our governments should prevent their citizens from holding them."

Metal Workers Union To Continue Strikes

PY270011292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 92 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—The UOM metal workers union decided to continue with a series of strikes it had started last December after negotiations with the management sector failed yesterday.

UOM representatives including its secretary general Lorenzo Miguel met yesterday afternoon with members of the five leading business organizations but failed to reach an agreement after the management sector made a surprise bid to reform the metal industry's current collective labour conditions bargaining.

According to Labour Ministry sources, the industrialists presented a written request asking for the suspension of the current bargain that the five business organizations apparently wish to replace with a new agreement.

Miguel said after the meeting that "We leave absolutely appalled with what we have heard from the industrialists who call themselves members of the first world."

Miguel's statement came after the last of a series of three conciliatory meetings set by the Labour Ministry to solve the conflict.

Other Ministry sources said that the sector's businessmen "want to cancel the daily litre of milk handed out the metal workers who carry out unhealthy tasks," one of the points included in the current labour bargain. The sources also revealed that the business organizations want to stop providing employees working clothes, and had requested that the workers' holiday schedule should be decided by their employers and not by them. Modifications in the metal industry's wage categories would have also been requested by the managing sector.

The UOM had called off a series of strikes to return to the bargaining table with the managing sector but after ten months of talks the parties have still to achieve a wage hike accord. The metal workers are demanding a 21 percent salary increase.

Miguel considered "an offense to the union and a lack of respect to the workers" the attempt to limit the collective labour conditions bargain. "In the whole history of the negotiations between the union and the business organizations we had never received an offense such as this. This attitude cannot be justified because they not only refuse to give us any of the things we ask but on top of that they attack our rights," the union strong man said.

Finally the UOM secretary general said he would complain before President Carlos Menem and Congress against "the managers' intent to take away the rights we gained 40 years ago." [passage omitted]

Military Industries Register $700 Million Loss

PY2401192492 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 22 Jan 92 p 18

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo urgently wants to expedite privatization of defense enterprises. The reason for this urgency is clear: In 1991, $202 million of the budget went to the General Directorate of Military Industries, thus causing a deficit in the Treasury. In one year, the military industrial sector spent the equivalent of 72 percent of a credit that Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez is painfully negotiating with the World Bank. This credit will be used to finance the restructuring and privatization of the enterprises of the area.

The Treasury had to provide $202 million to put the enterprises' accounts on a healthy footing, but if the indebtedness of the area, plus interest, amortization, etc.—all of which amounts to $580 million—are also taken into account, the total loss will reach $700 million.

The balance for the year, which Secretary of Production for Defense Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal reported to Minister Gonzalez, corresponds exclusively to the 16 enterprises (12 factories and four offices that are not linked with production) of the General Directorate of Military Industries.

The figures do not include the cost of SOMISA [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] or of the other enterprises of the defense industry, which do not belong to Military Industries but which, for the most part, have registered neither a loss nor a profit.

With gross annual sales of $111 million and 7,226 people on its payroll, Military Industries is undertaking a restructuring process that will separate civil and military manufacturing units, with a view toward privatizing the former and reorganizing or liquidating the latter. [passage omitted]

Ministry Reports Shining Path Member's Arrest

PY2501020492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—The Interior Ministry tonight reported that a person who identified himself as a "Peruvian citizen" and who admitted to being a member of the "Shining Path" terrorist organization was arrested a few hours ago.

A communique issued by the Interior Ministry minutes after 2300 GMT, at the end of a report by Argentina Televisora Color (ATC), states that "a person who identified himself as a Peruvian citizen named Walter Gomez was arrested late this afternoon" .

During the ATC report prepared a few minutes before his arrest, Gomez "admitted to being a Shining Path member. He said he is in the company of a group of persons who reportedly are in Argentina to collect funds."

The communique states: "There are well-grounded reasons to believe that Gomez is under court investigation in Peru. In view of this, through the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry is awaiting orders from Peruvian authorities."

The Interior Ministry communique states that the person who was arrested lacks any identification to verify his identity or his legal entry into the country. He is being held at the 21st Police Precinct Building, and the case is being handled by the National Migration Directorate.

'Alleged' Ex-Shining Path Member Interviewed

PY2501232892 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] An alleged former Shining Path terrorist said on 23 January in Buenos Aires that the organization is rotten, because 80 percent of its members work for drug traffickers.

During an interview with announcer Franco Salomone from the Buenos Aires Telefe television channel, the former terrorist said that the Shining Path is "an annihilation unit that has been contracted by drug traffickers to counteract possible attacks by the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] and possible clashes with the police."

The witness, an alleged guerrilla, is a member of a group of 15 people that clandestinely entered Argentina through Salta Province. He said that the group originally was made up of 60 people.

The man with short dark hair was standing with his back to the television camera. He said: "We crossed the border through Salta Province to ask, through the International Red Cross, for political asylum at the Swedish Embassy or the United Nations ."

He stated: "We wanted to desert because we were really involved in an irregular activity. The Shining Path is not really fighting for any cause. It has been contracted" (by drug traffickers). He added that in Buenos Aires "90 percent of the replies given to them have been negative.

We do not really want to have problems with the police. We just want to leave (the country) without problems."

He stated: "We illegally entered (Argentina), eluding controls. We waited for rainy nights to enter. We entered Bolivia 27 days ago with the help of the Peruvian bishopric and the International Red Cross in Lima."

Asked about who helped them enter Argentina, he said: "The Human Rights Commission. Dr. Frank Michel gave us the tickets. He gave us maps, in case we had to face rigorous controls."

As for the situation of the group in Buenos Aires, he said: "Swiss citizen Jean Luc Blondel from the International Red Cross is the only person who has helped us. The Charitas Christian organization gave clothes to all of us."

During an interview with United Press, Blondel admitted having received the visit of a person, whom he did not identify. This person asked for political asylum in Sweden for nine Shining Path terrorists who apparently are staying in a church in Bolivia.

When asked why he deserted from the Peruvian guerrilla group, the alleged terrorist said: "Eighty percent of the guerrillas are rotten, because they work for drug traffickers."

He said that drug traffickers pay the Shining Path 10 percent of the value of the merchandise. He stated: "Some 2,400 kg of cocaine base are sent to Colombia on three daily flights. We receive 10 percent on the total shipment sent abroad. The police receive 15 percent."

The Shining Path allows the drug traffickers to act with impunity in exchange for this benefit. The announcer told viewers that the interview was much longer and that it will be broadcast in two other programs.

He also said that at noon they received an anonymous call urging them to meet with a person known as Jose on the corner of Florida and Corrientes, in downtown Buenos Aires. Later, the alleged terrorist made statements at a Telefe studio in Buenos Aires.

Brazil

Government Recognizes Croatia, Slovenia

PY2501000192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The Brazilian Government today recognized the independence of the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia. A note released by Itamaraty states that this recognition does not change the traditional level of cooperation and friendship between Brazil and the Yugoslav Government.

Clandestine Arms for Brazil Seized in Mexico

PY2501013292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] Mexico City — In a joint operation, Army personnel, plainclothes police, and Interpol members detained a vessel flying the Yugoslav flag in Vera Cruz, on the Gulf of Mexico. The ship was carrying a clandestine cargo of some 40 tons of weapons manufactured in Israel that were being shipped to Brazil. This information was disseminated by the ANSA news agency.

According to the agency, the ship was also carrying 231 crates of weapons for the Mexican Defense Ministry, but these crates had legal import documents; the weapons destined for Brazil did not. According to the Vera Cruz correspondent of the morning EL UNIVERSAL newspaper, Hector Villa Flores, manager of the Gulf Navigation Company, and one of his employees were charged with coordinating the shipment and have been arrested. Villa Flores has been accused of not consigning the load of weapons in the vessel's cargo documentation.

Mexican Army personnel, plainclothes police, and Interpol were watching the vessel since Tuesday night; at the time the vessel was detained, its captain, who is traditionally the last person to leave a ship, fled and disappeared.

In Brazil, the Federal Police had no knowledge of the incident in Mexico. Up to 2000, the regional Interpol office in Rio de Janeiro also had not been notified of the incident.

Left Divided Over Cuban Dissident's Execution

PY2401193392 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] The decision to execute Eduardo Diaz Betancourt has divided Brazilian leftists. The Workers Party (PT) has condemned the Cuban Government's decision. Architect Oscar Niemeyer, who opposes the death penalty, however, termed Diaz Betancourt's execution as appropriate because it was "a case of treason." Niemeyer was a member of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) for 46 years until he resigned this year. He now follows an orthodox line.

Federal Deputy Sergio Arouca, of the renewal line and a former opponent of Niemeyer in the Big Party, has strongly condemned the execution. He said: "The State is assuming the level of an assassin." He believes that, just as Communists condemned the murder and torture of those who opposed the Brazilian military dictatorship, they should now condemn this execution in Cuba.

Aldo Rebelo, federal deputy and executive member of the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), who considers the case of Albania as an excellent example to be followed, defended the measure. He said that Cuba "bravely resists attempts to surround and annihilate it, mainly at the behest of the United States." He said: The

country has the right and the duty to defend itself. What tools should be used? It is up to Cubans to decide.

Journalist Eric Nepomuceno spoke for Chico Buarque [Brazilian pop music composer and singer], State Education Secretary Fernando Moraes, and for Frei Beto who is organizing a visit by a group of 100 dignitaries to Cuba on 7 February. He condemned the economic blockade and said that the execution, in principle, does not affect the group's initiative.

Nepomuceno said that the visit seeks to express solidarity with the Cuban people, not to support their government. He added that advertising man Carlito Maia decided not to go on the trip following the execution. According to Maia's "personal" viewpoint, Diaz Betancourt's execution will harm Cuba.

PT Senator Eduardo Suplicy, a candidate for the Sao Paulo State Prefecture, issued a note before Diaz Betancourt's execution expressing his solidarity with the Cuban people, condemning the blockade, and appealing to President Fidel Castro to commute the penalty imposed on Diaz Betancourt.

Jorge Ferrera Diaz, an official of the central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, believes that "terrorist" Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, who was executed the day before yesterday, "worked for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and deserved to pay for this, for betraying Cuba, his fatherland." Ferrera said that Diaz Betancourt confessed that his group's mission was "to disturb public order, placing bombs in movie theaters and workplaces, for example." Diaz said that before voicing an opinion on this case, the world should know all about "the U.S. position against Cuba, including the infiltration of other terrorist groups that seek to destabilize the country."

PT President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said: "The PT is an unyielding champion of the Cuban Revolution's social achievements. Nevertheless, there has been excessive severity in applying this sentence. The decision can only contribute to Cuba's isolation."

In remarks to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portugal, writer Jorge Amado said: "I am against the death penalty and against the boycott on Cuba. The execution (of Diaz Betancourt) was a serious political mistake that could result in the loss of the support that Cuba requires so much at this moment."

Interest in Russian Nuclear Experts Reported

PY2501192892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 92 p 11

[Report by correspondent Jose Meirelles Passos from Washington]

[Text] Some Brazilian Government circles are interested in taking advantage of the Soviet Union's collapse to attract to our country highly specialized scientists and technicians—especially in the nuclear field. This issue is stirring controversy in government circles in Brasilia, and the question is that, while one group is championing such a position, there is a strong reaction from Brazilian professionals and, furthermore, personal resistance by President Fernando Collor himself.

The dilemma was disclosed by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek during a conversation with a group of journalists at the Brazilian Embassy on the night of 22 January.

The Brazilian foreign minister commented: "There is interest in absorbing Soviet nuclear scientists, but this is a very sensitive—indeed fairly delicate—issue. We do not even like to touch much on this issue; simply mentioning it raises suspicion in many places, especially in the United States."

According to the foreign minister, Brazil would like—"Of course!"—to import professionals from the Soviet nuclear field to conduct research and other developments for peaceful uses. After all, it is highly specialized manpower and, in a certain way, cheap. It is the beginning of a scientific drain from the old Soviet Union because, as a matter of fact, they have been liberated from the state system and are earning puny salaries. December salaries, for example, totaled the equivalent of barely $7.

The Libyan Government was the first one to enter the field, seeking to attract the Soviets by offering $2,000 monthly salaries. Brazil also was interested in using some of the scientists who intend to emigrate. At this moment, however, there still is not a consensus within the government.

Rezek said: "Professor (a physicist and education minister) Jose Goldemberg has already touched on this issue, mentioning it to President Collor. The issue, however, ends up being put aside because the president, at heart, is not enthusiastic about it. And his position has nothing to do with the Soviets themselves. It happens that President Collor is against nuclear energy, even for peaceful uses. He always has said that Brazil has other resources to produce energy. And, actually, those resources are cheaper than nuclear energy. Therefore, the nuclear issue is not a priority for this government."

According to the foreign minister, the absorption of Soviet scientists from other fields also is encountering barriers in Brazil. He said that many groups already have complained about the government's willingness, in principle, to take in some Soviets.

Rezek told O GLOBO: "It happens that there are many professionals in Brazil who are not employed in their specialty. And they are complaining about the fact that we are thinking of attracting the Russians, who are appearing on the market at a moment when many Brazilians are forced to go abroad seeking employment."

Collor Addresses Nation on Social Security

PY2701100092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2150 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Speech by President Fernando Collor; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear Fellow Countrymen, good evening. Once again, I am addressing you about the social security issue. I know how emotional this subject is, since it affects the lives of all Brazilian families, and for that reason it must be dealt with in a clear, honest, and transparent manner. Over the past few days, society has been the target of contradictory information and distorted reports. It is necessary to reestablish the truth of the facts and to seek solutions that are in keeping with reality.

For some time, I have been warning everyone about the serious situation of the social security system. I have always tried to warn the Brazilian people of the risk we were running as a consequence of the large increase in the number of pensioners through the years, without a corresponding increase in the number of contributors and, above all, without the resources necessary to pay for the increase in expenses.

We are currently in a dramatic and unbearable situation in which there are only two contributors for every pensioner; that is, two active workers are maintaining one inactive worker. Just to give you an idea, that ratio was four to one 20 years ago. My dear fellow countrymen, we will only be able to correct this system with broad management and structural reform, which I hope we will be able to urgently carry out together. The entire country is witnessing my total effort, work, determination, and willingness to carry out the necessary changes to obtain the best results, to correct mistakes, and to find new paths.

The truth, however, cannot be changed. The figures initially presented by the government are correct. The information distributed by other people—in an attempt to demonstrate that the social security system has enough money to pay for the increase in expenses stemming from judicial rulings— is either wrong or based on unrealistic hypotheses that can never serve as a basis for government decisions.

For example, one such piece of information was based on the idea that the unemployment rate will drop considerably this year, increasing social security revenues—an evolution that unfortunately, is not probable in the short term. Some people are questioning the government's figures based on this incorrect projection. What is more, the National Accounting Office [TCU] president has warned that his report was preliminary, and therefore, subject to mistakes, since it did not even contain a complete audit of all the figures.

I will hereby read one paragraph of the letter that the TCU president sent the president of the Chamber of Deputies: Quote. I stress that I have decided to send Your Excellency the mentioned report, despite the fact that it is preliminary, considering the urgency with which Your Excellency requested the information that could be collected by our teams within a 10-day period. It has been impossible, during that period of time, to make an audit of the figures and pertinent documents provided by the auditing agencies—a procedure that is essential to verify the consistency of the information. Unquote.

The report is so preliminary that an initial reevaluation of the revenue collection estimates contained in it—a reevaluation made by the same person who made the projections, but who now used Economy Ministry parameters—has already corrected his projection by 9 trillion cruzeiros. Listen well, my dear fellow countrymen: 9 trillion cruzeiros.

The differences between the many figures that have been mentioned are also a consequence of the use of different indexes, including that of expected inflation. For our part, our work is based on indexes that have been carefully prepared by the Economy Ministry and that guide the entire government program; it could not be otherwise.

Our figures clearly demonstrate that we need more resources for the social security system. The lack of understanding of social security figures may even be justified given the large figures involved. Look, with nearly 12.5 million pensioners on its payroll, a simple 1,000 cruzeiros increase for each of those 12.5 million pensioners raises the payroll by 12.5 billion cruzeiros per month; that is, 150 billion cruzeiros per year, without including the 13th salary.

It is clear that we need revenues to pay for any increase. In the past, the illusion of more revenues was created through an artifice: by printing money without any backing, thereby generating inflation. I will not allow this to happen in any way. I repeat, in no way.

My dear fellow countrymen, you must recall that, during my administration, all pensioners of this country have begun to earn at least a minimum salary. More than 5 million pensioners who received half a minimum salary have begun to earn a full minimum salary. More than 10 million pensioners have received readjustments equal or greater than those currently demanded before the court—all this since last September.

We are trying to preserve a patrimony of all Brazilians: the social security system that we want to be universal and public. It is essential that you understand this well. The court must decide whether or not the 147 percent readjustment is appropriate.

When the 1992 budget bill was approved by Congress last year, that increase could not be foreseen, since the government cannot create money. Naturally, our hands were tied when in November 1991, the courts began to

provisionally approve the 147 percent increase not foreseen by the Budget Law. This began to create enormous problems, because the court decisions—mark you, they were provisional—ordered immediate payment.

By the beginning of this year, the scenario became worse and we soon realized that the social security fund would be penniless. Thus, the path to follow was to summon an extraordinary session of Congress to consider a draft bill increasing the social security contributions that, if approved, could only begin to generate resources in May 1992.

That increase proposal was meant to cover the difference between what the government has and the amount of money it requires to pay the readjustments provisionally approved by the court. The Chamber of Deputies took the sovereign decision to reject the draft bill, but it assumed a commitment to share the responsibility of seeking a structural and definite solution. The government will cooperate closely with the legislative branch by opening all its accounting books, by providing all the necessary information so that the examination of the social security situation can be as complete, thorough, and realistic as possible.

I am making a strong appeal for discussion of this subject to be held outside party disputes, avoiding the effects of the upcoming election race. Society and the executive, legislative, and judicial branches must make a joint effort to overcome the temporary difficulties.

The urgency of preventing the bankruptcy of the social security system has demanded the issuance of a decree that—taking into consideration the obligation to respect the Constitution—leaves payment of the readjustments granted by the court, for which there are currently no resources, to the 1993 budget. This decree has been preliminarily considered constitutional by the Federal Supreme Court. The Supreme Court cannot make a definite decision on the readjustment issue yet because the appeals have not yet reached it. Some appeals are still in the Superior Court and in lower federal courts.

My dear fellow countrymen, as president of the Republic, I, more than anyone, want an end to the bad interpretations and emotional exploitations of the pensioners' image. Pensioners must be respected because they are workers who have dedicated their whole life to Brazil.

We must understand that an increase in the pensioners' purchasing power will only come with a structural change of the social security system and with the conquest of economic stability in the country. We already have concrete reasons for such hope: Inflation is dropping, the government is not spending more than it is collecting, foreign investments are returning, the foreign debt negotiations are progressing, and this year's agricultural harvest will be one of the greatest in our history. In all, our economy is modernizing.

Dear fellow countrymen, what is at stake is the survival of the social security system and the living conditions of millions of Brazilians. If the social security system collapses, it will even affect medical assistance provided to all our population by the National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance. We must bear in mind that progress does not come by magic. there is only one possibility to increase pensioners' income in the short term: transfering revenue from one sector of society to another.

In the midterm, with the resumption of development and with revenues increasing annually, we will be able to find solutions from which all social sectors may benefit at the same time. I am convinced that Brazil is currently walking in the direction of economic growth, modernity, solidarity, and construction of a solid, prosperous, fair, and democratic society. The Brazilian people will overcome this great challenge. God will help us.

Details of Ministry, Personnel Changes Outlined

PY2401233692 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] President Fernando Collor on 23 January accepted the resignation of Health Minister Alceni Guerra, whose administration was practically paralyzed due to charges of irregularities in purchases without competitive bidding. Education Minister Jose Goldemberg has assumed the post for an interim period. Having been invited to assume the post of minister secretary of government, which was created on 22 January, Senator Jorge Bornhausen (PFL-SC) [Liberal Front Party-Santa Catarina State] arrived in Brasilia on 23 January to say that he has accepted the invitation. Within the framework of an extensive reform, the president is also going to break up the Labor and Social Security Ministry.

Congressmen close to Planalto Palace have guaranteed that former Rio Grande do Sul State Deputy Nelson Marchezan of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] has been invited to become labor minister. With the demise of the Special Ministry for Mercosur [Common Market of the South] Affairs [as published], Minister Carlos Chiarelli, who has also occupied the post of education minister, will now leave the government. On confirming the reforms on 23 January, Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho, who is also political coordinator, criticized the actions of Chiarelli, who is from Rio Grande do Sul State. "Mercosur is not the integration of Rio Grande do Sul with Argentina," Passarinho observed.

Post Created To Improve Relations With Congress

PY2401161092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jan 92 Political Section p 4

[Excerpts] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor yesterday took another step in his recently adopted strategy of seeking to win political elbow room by making cabinet changes. He created the post of minister secretary of government [ministro-chefe da Secretaria de Governo],

whose main duty will be to help the government improve its relations with Congress. Presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, who announced the decision, said that "It will be an organ that will strengthen the government's political coordination." The position will be held by a PFL [Liberal Front Party] politician. Up until last night, however, Planalto Palace had not yet announced the name of the new official. [passage omitted]

The spokesman made the announcement at around 2040. Yesterday was not a typical day at Government House. The president arrived at his office at approximately 1400. In addition, even his closest advisers, such as National Legal Adviser Celio Silva and presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto, only learned about the decision late in the afternoon.

Claudio Humberto reported that the new minister will fulfill the duties previously discharged by the Civilian Household of the Presidency. The minister in charge of the Civilian Household of the Presidency has traditionally been the government's main political coordinator. The creation of the new post may weaken the position of the minister of justice, who is the current political coordinator of Planalto Palace. The minister secretary of government will advise the president on social, political, and legal matters.

Government Launches Land Reform Program

PY2501002192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Corban Costa at the Planalto Palace]

[Text] The Brazilian Government today launched the Pro-Land Program, which seeks to settle 50,000 families during 1992 at a cost of 1.708 billion cruzeiros. This part of the program, which was launched today by President Fernando Collor, is being treated as an emergency. The overall cost of the program through the end of this administration is estimated at 8 trillion cruzeiros and envisions settling 400,000 rural families.

Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera has said that the new aspect of this program is that it will not only issue property titles to the families, it will also ensure them technical assistance and additional credits to finance their agricultural projects.

After the ceremony to launch the program, President Collor descended the Planalto Palace ramp, in the company of the agriculture minister, 300 guests, and students from two schools: one in Goias and the other in Sao Paulo.

Colombia

Defense Minister Views Public Order Situation

PA2701944292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Cadena 1 Television in Spanish 0138 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda by Jesus Garzon; place not given—live]

[Text] [Garzon] Six soldiers were killed and four others were wounded in clashes with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] on 27 January. Defense Minister, the public order situation in the country is sad.

[Pardo Rueda] The situation is really unfortunate. We regret this situation, in which Colombians have lost their lives. We have to strongly condemn the attitude of the guerrillas, who are returning to their criminal tactics. They think that by carrying out these types of actions they are gaining strength for subsequent negotiations, when actually the situation is completely the opposite. They are being rejected by the people, and they will not get any type of truce or weakness from the Armed Forces.

[Garzon] How did events develop in Santander and Antioquia, where the clashes took place?

[Pardo Rueda] There were two ambushes in which, unfortunately, a noncommissioned officer and five soldiers from the Nueva Granada Battalion were killed.

[Garzon] Is the government planning to resume the dialogue in Caracas on 1 February?

[Pardo Rueda] The date has yet to be determined. The government intends to resume these type of talks, but I believe we have to ask ourselves if, given these types of actions, the talks are possible. The guerrillas are the ones who have to change their attitude. If they want peace, this is not the way to do it. All they are getting is rejection and quick retaliation from the public force.

[Garzon] Do you believe the talks should resume?

[Pardo Rueda] I believe we have to view the circumstances very carefully because a dialogue has to have public trust. I believe these types of actions do not contribute to a solution.

[Garzon] We have a negative balance in the public order situation on the national territory, mainly in Santander and Antioquia, where the CNGSB murdered six military officers and wounded four others.

Ports Militarized in Preparation for Strike

PA2701043292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0132 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The situation in Colombia's ports is worsening. All port workers, including temporary employees, voted for a strike. The port labor union announced it is

prepared to finance the scheduled 30 day strike with a fund of 60 million pesos. The first day of the strike will be decided in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 January.

The government said the necessary steps have been taken to militarize ports in case the strike actually takes place. Labor Minister Francisco Posada de la Pena said the nation cannot bleed itself white because of the millions in pensions demanded by Colombian Ports Enterprise employees.

The Buenaventura Port Union voted for a strike today. A total of 2,000 port workers, including 700 temporary workers, will go on an indefinite strike.

[Begin labor leader Marcus Ortiz recording] The Public Works minister said he does not accept any dialogue. We are surprised to see that even though there are talks going on with everyone, the government does not want to know anything about the working class. [end recording]

The first day of the strike will be decided in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 January. If the strike takes place, it is estimated losses at each terminal will total 800 million pesos in four hours. This means 67 percent of each company's cargo will be adversely affected by the strike.

[Begin labor leader Rene Zuniga recording] The labor unions of Barranquilla and Cartagena have taken the initiative and are trying to unite the labor movement, not only locally but throughout the entire country, by mounting large opposition against the Cesar Gaviria government, which has stepped on the rights of the workers and other less fortunate classes. [end recording]

The presidents of the different port unions throughout the country decided to go on strike to improve their situation.

FARC Reportedly Willing To Reach Cease-Fire

PA2701025592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Gilberto Vieira has revealed a message from the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] secretariat on its views about the talks that will start 1 February in Caracas. The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] reportedly is willing to reach a cease-fire immediately if the government pledges to end what the CNGSB calls harassment of its command posts.

The CNGSB leaders say they want the round of talks scheduled to start soon in Caracas to be quick and highly positive. They believe this is possible because they think Horacio Serpa's appointment as peace adviser was President Gaviria's wisest decision.

[Begin Vieira recording] It would be good to establish a cease-fire as soon as possible. This would naturally entail the Army ending its large-scale offensives against areas where the Army of National Liberation, FARC, and Popular Liberation Army high commands are located. [end recording]

Referring to the peace advisers' impending resignation, the leftist leader said it is a protocol measure, because the government decided to change the person in charge of the peace process.

FARC Reportedly Kidnaps 'Paramilitary' Members

PA2501212992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2007 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 25 Jan (EFE)—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has kidnapped 26 persons in Miranda (Cauca, southwest), whom they are blaming for the massacre of 21 Indians on 16 December in nearby Caloto.

Colombian radio station RCN announced 25 January that among those kidnapped were businessmen, politicians, and private individuals. The FARC 4th Front has launched its own investigation into the participation of these individuals in the mass murder that took place in that northeastern Cauca region.

The FARC has confirmed that the kidnapped individuals are all members of a paramiltiary group. However, according to the authorities, the FARC's real objective is merely propaganda, since there is no proof that the kidnapped persons are involved in the massacre.

Business Leaders Oppose Lowering Import Duties

PA2701034492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Business leaders described the latest measures taken by the government in signing a free trade agreement with Venezuela and the reduction of import duties as a backward step for the country's auto industry.

In a letter sent to Economic Development Minister Jorge Ospina Sardi, National Industrialists Association President Carlos Arturo Angel, Federation of Metallurgical Industries President Luis Gustavo Flores, and Acolfa [not further identified] President Camilo Angulo said the immediate and abrupt lowering of import duties on vehicles brought in from Venezuela violates the presidential mandate both countries signed on 15 March 1991 in Caracas.

The condition of the country's auto industry has been disregarded despite the series of discussions that have being held on this topic. The dialogue that had been taking place was also disregarded, the business leaders said.

The business leaders said the government measures are detrimental to the existence of auto assembly plants in the country. As far as Colombia is concerned, it leaves by the wayside the mechanism for the reorganization of

reciprocal trade between our country and Venezuela. We have asked for support for the reorganization of our industries and, if this cannot be found at the ministry, the problems could be unsurmountable, the business leaders said in their letter to Economic Development Minister Jorge Ospina Sardi.

Government Releases 1991 Foreign Debt Figures

PA2501042292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jan 92 p 9

[Text] Less debt. At the end of 1991, Colombia's foreign public and private debt amounted to $17 billion, some $500 million less than what was registered at the end of 1990. The government stressed that this is the second reduction in 17 years. On both occasions, the reductions have been due to larger payments and less acquisitions.

The first reduction took place in 1989, when the debt decreased from $17.359 billion to $17.007 billion, due to payments of principals totaling $3.6 billion, which were above new acquisitions. The public debt has remained at about $14.5 billion over the past five years. The Banco de la Republica reported that over a three-month period (January-March), the official debt was reduced by $638 million.

Recent statistics show that international reserves peaked at a record $6.477 billion on 20 December 1991. On 20 December 1990, it reached $4.435 billion. On that same date, there was a current account surplus of $2.337 billion due to $8.723 billion in deposits and $6.386 billion in expenditures. Included in the income was an 18 percent increase in exports totaling $5.383 billion, plus gold sales that earned $404 million. Oil and mining earned $193 million and services and transfers earned $2.742 billion.

The government announced it will market a new type of bond to increase revenue, thanks to the huge success dollar bonds have had in domestic market capitals. On 17 January—the second day of operations—the third bond edition was made available to investors in Santa Fe de Bogota, Cali, and Medellin. The government is authorized to market up to $500 million in bonds.

Peru

'Historic Meeting' With Bolivia's Paz Reported

Officials Preview Meeting

PA2401144892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Everything is ready for the historic meeting the presidents of Peru and Bolivia will hold 24 January in the port of Ilo. Concerning this meeting, Council of Ministers President Alfonso de los Heros said the agreements that will be signed are of vital importance to both countries.

[Begin recording] [De los Heros] I believe the meeting is very important, because it falls within the framework of Peru's international policy of maintaining the most [word indistinct] possible bilateral and multilateral relations both with neighboring countries and beyond our neighbors.

In Bolivia's case, I believe what is about to take place on 24 January is enormously important, because we are going to establish a true connection, a true bridge with the neighboring Republic of Bolivia. Not only will Bolivia benefit from this relationship through the free port and the facilities to be established at the port of Ilo, Peru will also improve her relations with Bolivia and with the Atlantic basin.

[Unidentified reporter] What issues will the presidents discuss at this meeting?

[De los Heros] There is an agenda with all of the topics concerning bilateral relations, the future of our bilateral relations, and the advantages of future relations through these ties. I believe this meeting is a means to establish a path to the Pacific Ocean for Bolivia, which is very important for that country. At the same time, it will also be a bridge for Peru, a bilateral relationship that will improve our relations; not only our traditional relations with Bolivia, but our commercial and economic ties.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the Bolivian Government's offer of a path to the Atlantic?

[De los Heros] It is very positive. This is precisely what it is all about. We must integrate with other countries, and this is a way of doing that, not only with Bolivia but through Bolivia with the countries on the Atlantic coast. [end recording]

Senate President Felipe Osterling Parodi refers to the meeting that the presidents of Peru and Bolivia will hold on 24 January in the port city of Ilo. He said this important meeting marks the beginning of true integration between the two countries.

[Begin Osterling recording] I believe it is very important for Peru to give Bolivia a free port through the port of Ilo, not only for its export and import trade but also so that the Bolivians can have access to the water. I believe the reward of this proposal set forth by President Fujimori is access to the Atlantic Ocean for Peru. Therefore, even before seeing the specific agreements, initial appearances are that it is a very important and positive trip.

I will become acquainted with this topic, because the Bolivian vice president and the president of the Bolivian senate have invited me to this neighboring country in early February. Consequently, I believe it is important for the president of the Peruvian Congress to visit Bolivia to continue discussing topics of importance to two neighboring countries with a common past and, evidently, a common future. [end recordingg]

Bolivian Ambassador to Peru Adalberto Violand described the meeting between Presidents Alberto Fujimori and Jaime Paz Zamora as historic. He said the Bolivian people joyously welcomed the concession of a free port to their country, which will step up trade in the southern part of the hemisphere.

[Begin Violand recording] On 24 January you will see in Ilo that this is an important meeting. It is going to be a party for the Bolivian-Peruvian confraternity, and a party for South American integration.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Violand] This plan emerged for the first time in 1979, but Presidents Fujimori and Paz Zamora have given it new meaning. They project it with 21st century ideas. This is the beginning of an integration process.

[Reporter] What expectations has this meeting generated among Bolivian businessmen [words indistinct]?

[Violand] The most important Peruvian businessmen will be among the delegation. The president will be accompanied by (Fiev); businessmen who already have ties with Bolivia will be part of the delegation, including (Carlos Lazarte), who is the president of the Peruvian-Bolivian Chamber, and Roberto Percival, who was president of the Chamber of Exporters and already owns a binational company. He has Bolivian partners in a transportation company. The heads of a binational insurance company will also be among the delegation.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, what was the initial idea [words indistinct]?

[Violand] The initial idea was to solve...[pauses] ease the cloistered situation of my country, make the southern area of Peru dynamic, and integrate the Pacific and Atlantic communities. [end recording]

Fujimori, Paz Sign Agreements

PA2401203492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Peru and Bolivia on 24 January established the foundations of several binational integration and cooperation agreements. A document called the Grand Marshal Andres de Santa Cruz Agreement established a corridor between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This agreement, which was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries, grants Bolivia full access to the sea beginning 24 January.

The country of the high plateau will henceforth have an 163-hectare industrial and commercial free zone at the Peruvian Port of Ilo. The unimpeded railway movement by Peruvians and Bolivians will be increased in both territories. Microwaves will be used to expand telecommunications.

Presidents Alberto Fujimori and Jaime Paz Zamora signed the Declaration of Ilo in front of hundreds of Peruvians and Bolivians who gathered at that southern port. This is an historic event for Bolivia, whose greatest aspiration came true, said a very moved President Paz Zamora. The Bolivian president on several occasions reaffirmed his commitment to integration and cooperation during this important and moving ceremony.

Meanwhile, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said: Bolivian friends, welcome to Peru; Ilo will not be a foreign city for you. The head of state, addressing the Bolivians who were in attendance, openly offered free passage through national territory. We are trying to achieve integration after many years of estrangement, Fujimori pointed out.

The country of the high plateau will now have all the facilities to develop its foreign trade, and its inhabitants will enjoy a seaside resort called Boliviamar, the president added.

Alberto Fujimori and Jaime Paz Zamora delivered speeches amid the applause of hundreds of touched Peruvians and Bolivians. Moments earlier Ilo Mayor Ernesto Herrera handed commemorative plaques to the two presidents to welcome them and as a symbol of their commitment to integration.

Our station carried a live transmission of the Peruvian-Bolivian presidential activities from that port city. Fujimori and Paz Zamora are currently touring the (Poucs), (Soerisa), and Point Coles seaside resorts with local and regional authorities, ministers of state, and businessmen of the two countries.

Comment on Results

PA2401222592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The meeting at the Port of Ilo on 24 January was historic and the Bolivian president delivered a very moving speech.

[Begin Paz recording] Bolivia once again reaches the sea, the Pacific Ocean. This is the profound significance of the step that we are taking today, which opens up a diversity of activity for my country, although it lacks the sovereignty it so desires and is not in its historically rightful place. [applause]

This event is the first step in Bolivia's persistent determination to recover its full right to the sea with which it was born to republican life and which I demanded at the UN Assembly General in 1989. This remains our national goal, but today, because of this brotherly event, this goal may have greater possibilities than ever of becoming a reality. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Fujimori had this to say:

[Begin Fujimori recording] We open our arms under this sun, which in the past has witnessed the feats of the Quechua and Aimara Indians of ancient Peru, who achieved equal control over the cold highland plains, the

tropical jungle, and these coasts. They created surprising cultures and civilizations. This sun, this sky, on this morning will also witness the resolve of our people, who inherited the glory expressed at the meeting this morning between the two presidents.

Almost 167 years ago, history separated us, and 156 years ago the first attempt to restore our countries' political unity failed. Neither circumstance could ever undermine the essential unity of two peoples who in reality are one, because centuries of the common history of upper and lower Peru have formed a cultural and national identity that is shared today by the Republics of Peru and Bolivia.

Upon meeting here today, we are but reaffirming the common feelings on integration of the Peruvian and Bolivian people, feelings that are likewise needed and urgently demanded by reality. As such, as needs, as demands, and as urgencies, you and I will assume them. The time has come to go from integration and brotherhood as ideas, plans, and promises, to integration and brotherhood as a daily reality, as a true horizon. [end recording]

Consitutional Rights Suspended in Several Areas

PA2501000892 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The government has declared a state of emergency in several districts in the provinces of Daniel Carrion, Oxapampa, and Cerro de Pasco in Pasco Department for 30 days, effective 24 January.

The state of emergency affects Huancabamba, Palcazu, Suso, Puerto Bermudez, Huariaca, Huayllay, (San Francisco de Asis), (Simon Bolivar), Pico, Yanacancha, and (Ticlacayan), among others. Toward this end, the individual rights contemplated in the Constitution have been suspended, and the Armed Forces are authorized to continue to control internal order to facilitate the struggle against subversive violence.

Council President Views Current Events, Issues

PA2701035692

[Editorial Report] Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish at 1400 GMT on 25 January broadcasts a one-hour talk show program called "Saturday's Review", featuring Minister Alfonso de los Heros, president of the Council of Ministers, who is interviewed by journalists Arturo Salazar and Augusto Alvarez.

Minister de los Heros is asked how he views the current situation in the country with respect to the compensation law for time in service, relations between the executive and legislative branches, and the measures of force announced by the Confederation of Peruvian Workers. He replies: "The general atmosphere during the past few days has been positive because there have been talks with many parliamentarians." He notes, "There is no majority in the Congress, which permits the use and exercise of all legal and constitutional recourses," adding that "this does not mean that there are confrontations," and "that the executive and legislative branches can maintain good relations through dialogue." He notes that the elected government is implementing changes—not in quantity, but quality—and urges the democratic parliamentary forces not to oppose those changes for political reasons.

Salazar asks if those changes could mean going against the country's democratic institutions, to which Minister de los Heros replies: "No, we are not going against the institutions. However, I believe that Peruvians are determined to change our country. I have no doubts about that. We saw it in Ilo on 24 January. What our people want to see is the country's development, greater job opportunities, and a good economy."

Alvarez asks: "Do you think the president will have to change his attitude to have a more fluid relationship with the parliament? Minister de los Heros replies that not only the president must change, but the parliament and everybody else if necessary, "if the mechanisms provided by the Constitution are not enough." He adds that "in my opinion, the president is not opposed to dialogue; as prime minister, I have maintained a dialogue with parliamentarian groups on various topics, and the results of that dialogue and rapprochement will be seen at the end of this legislature."

When asked if he feels the Congress has been very generous toward the president, despite his criticism, De los Heros said "I think this generosity has been bordering on avarice. Although the parliament has been very flexible, we must remember that whenever the parliament approves a law, it also rejects other proposals. An example of this was the law on collective labor contracts, which in my opinion was very important." He adds "The parliament should not get in the president's way; it should let him govern, and supervise his work, giving him more opportunities to solve problems."

Asked about a dinner attended by the president and a group of eight to 10 parliamentarians, de los Heros said "that meeting was proposed by several ministers," adding "it was an informal meeting," and this does not mean that the president will not meet with congressional leaders in the future."

On labor issues, De los Heros rejects claims that labor laws "are unconstitutional," saying the government has adopted Agreement 158 of the International Labor Organization, which is universal, as the authentic and real interpretation of the Constitution... as it adequately guarantees labor stability."

Regarding the problem of the "identification card [cedula]," he says "the problem has been mishandled by people who know nothing about this matter." He rejected allegations "that the government wants to ignore the rights of government employees who have worked for 30 years," saying the objective is to regulate the system.

At the end of the program, Minister de los Heros says that two important topics this year will be privatization and social aid. Regarding social aid, he says: "We are trying to obtain credit from the Inter-American Development Bank" as well as from Europe and other sources.

Venezuela

Perez Discusses Budget, Foreign Policy Issues

PA2601233792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1603 GMT 25 Jan 92

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic correspondents—live]

[Excerpts] [Perez]... this last execution, and every execution in general. He pointed out: Venezuela has traditionally rejected the death penalty. For Venezuelans, this penalty should not exist. This is our basic fundamental principle. If capital punishment is related to political crimes, our basic position of opposition to capital punishment turns to repudiation. We believe such a penalty, in fact, violates human rights because political reasons involve human passions. In such cases, we do not think the death penalty should be applied to any human being. I do not want to go into a lengthy discussion on this issue. I only want to say that several Latin American and European presidents personally contacted the Cuban Government to request this sentence be commuted. We had all considered the disastrous repercussions this verdict would have on world public opinion.

Regarding the Aristide case, or specifically the case of Haiti, this continues to be a major concern to every government in the continent, starting with the United States and every democratic government in the world. This is not just a matter of whether or not we support a president who has been duly elected by the people. This has to do with principles of democracy that we have been able to unquestionably reaffirm in Latin America. Only through votes or through each country's existent constitutional norms can a president be changed or impeached. This is an issue of such importance to Latin America that we definitely cannot give in.

And thank God that, for the first time in its history, the OAS has taken a strong stance regarding this situation. The defense of sovereignty cannot be left to the whim of a single government. It must be the result of a collective agreement of an already existent organization, legally constituted by the consensus of its member countries. Such is the case of the United Nations at a universal level, and the OAS at a regional level. Talks with the Haitian regime have been taking place with some regularity and have given us room for hope. Nevertheless, during the past weeks, the talks have stalled. That is why I was very pleased with the recent statements made by OAS Secretary General Baena. Mr. Baena recalled that, during the foreign ministers' meeting, when this issue was first discussed, an agreement was reached to adopt an economic embargo on all exports to Haiti; if these measures were not enough, other stronger measures would then be adopted.

In Mr. Baena's 24 January declarations, he announced that a deadline to talks with Haiti would be set shortly, and if the OAS's legitimate demands are not met, then additional measures would be implemented until Haiti is finally expelled from the OAS. I strongly approve of Mr. Baena's statements. I continue to express my belief and optimism that only through the dialogue undertaken by the OAS commission, headed by Dr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, will some final agreement be reached sometime this month. This agreement will not only restore Aristide to power, but will also restore democracy and constitutional rights in Haiti.

Another issue my friend Lozada Rondon has raised is related to my trip to Davos. It is related to the many criticisms of the president's trips, which are very easy to criticize. Lozada said: Most people generally believe that if the problems of the country are in the country, what is the president going to do abroad? First, we must consider why all presidents of the free countries of the world are making trips everywhere. When I leave, I am not going to meet with myself, but with presidents of other countries. International cooperation or direct diplomacy, as my friend Consuegra [not further identified] would say, has developed to such an extent that not one day goes by without the media covering the trip of one head of state or another. There are also international events and agreement ceremonies in which a president must participate. There is the Rio Pact in Latin America. Presidential summits are scheduled to take place in each of the Rio Pact countries. All the presidents must attend these summits. There is also the Andean Pact, for which there is a presidential summit every six months involving the Andean presidents. We are also forced to participate in this summit. The purpose of all this is to discuss issues that directly affect each of our countries. Another example is the Amazonian Pact, which comprises all the Latin American presidents who are part of the Great Amazon. Presidential summits are organized every now and then, and all the presidents must attend.

Meetings are held every year, and we presidents must attend. In Latin America, a very good practice has been initiated to strengthen personal ties among the area presidents. Every time a president is sworn in, the presidents of at least the neighboring countries attend the ceremony. The trip may take one day or a few hours and, as a result, a personal relationship between the new president and the others is established from the very beginning. The presidents can call one another over the telephone and discuss any topic any day. The Venezuelan president makes such trips. The presidents of the Caribbean nations and the presidents of the Andean and Rio Pact countries also visit Venezuela on such occasions. These look like courtesy gestures only, but these trips are necessary and important because of the relationship established between the presidents.

There are other reasons of an international nature. For instance, Venezuela is a member of the Security Council, the foremost body of the United Nations. The Council makes extremely important decisions, such as the decision to form a multinational army to end Iraq's violation of Kuwait's sovereignty. The Security Council has now decided to meet at the level of the heads of state of the Council's member countries. How would it look if Venezuela did not attend that meeting while the heads of 14 states attended to make decisions that are of interest to the entire world, including Venezuela? We would have had to pull out of the United Nations if we were unwilling to comply with the agreements and pacts we had signed. There are other commitments as well. For example, as UN members, we must obey UN decisions. The UN secretary general was appointed as an intermediary between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas to end the war. In turn, the secretary general appointed the Venezuelan president, the Spanish Prime Minister, the Mexican president, and the Colombian president as his friends to use their good offices to resolve the problem. Should Venezuela have refused or should Venezuela have participated, as the international agreement specifies?

What would have happened if, because of a congressional vote, I were not allowed to attend the signing of the agreement of which I am a part? Venezuela would have had to resign from the group of friends of the secretary general. That would hurt Venezuela's international status and our UN obligations. The country should realize the president does not travel to be a tourist. I never do that. If you speak to any of the people who accompany me on my tours, they will tell you I do not waste a minute, but go about my business and return to Venezuela right away. How would Venezuela look if we had not gone to Mexico to attend that sensational and momentous event: the signing of peace in El Salvador? If I had not gone, I would have had to resign from my obligation to the secretary general. I give you this lengthy explanation so you can understand why I travel. This is something that not only I do, but all Latin American presidents and all the presidents of the world do.

Now I will talk about my trip to Davos, a small Swiss town and international financial center. The world's greatest tycoons meet in Davos, as do heads of state from big and medium-sized countries. Prime ministers, heads of state, and heads of great world businesses meet in Davos. Davos is where the international economic guidelines are set by the world's private sector, which handles the economies in this world of free competition. I was in Davos when I was a presidential candidate, and this had a great bearing on my election as president and on my economic program, which I had already announced at the meeting in Davos. I was invited to Davos last year but had to excuse myself because of a series of events taking place in Venzuela at the time, so I offered to go this year. I will discuss international economic programs; our right to join the world economy; and our right to protest the protectionism still employed against our products by large countries, such as the United States and Europe. I will also reach agreements with big businesses. That is my mission in Davos.

Other Latin American presidents will be there, including heads of state from Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and other countries. All these are relationships and commitments that interest Venezuela. That is the reason for my trip, and this is good for the people to know. Of course, the opposition can oppose this or that trip. It is alright for them to do so, and the president is obligated explain the reasons for each of these trips. Going a step further, the rule that the president needs authorization to make certain trips abroad has been removed from nearly all the world's constitutions. Very few constitutions have this article, which is something that belongs to a distant past.

The president of Colombia does not have to ask the Colombian Congress for permission to travel out of the country, neither does the president of Argentina. In Central America, for example, this requirement is being lifted. At the beginning of the year, presidents are given permission to attend all the meetings that take place on the American continent.

Let us not forget that the Constitution states that the president of the nation directs foreign relations, and if the president, based on this authority, decides to form part of the group of friends of the Secretary General of the United Nations, an organization to which we belong, how can he be prevented from doing so? Would not this harm Venezuela's foreign policy, which calls for participation in UN meetings? Many arguments could be wielded to explain this. When Venezuelans read newspapers, they may notice that not a single day goes by without some president traveling somewhere.

[Moderator] Mr. Lozada is satisfied, of course. Estrella Gutierrez, from INTERPRESS SERVICE, please ask your question in front of the microphone.

[Gutierrez] Regarding the Cuba issue, I would like you to confirm whether or not Foreign Minister Duran directly mediated in Havana with Cuban President Fidel Castro to prevent the execution of a prisoner by firing squad and, if this mediation occurred, did it take place on behalf of other countries or heads of state in addition to Venezuela?

You have said that before your trip to Davos, you will participate in a UN Security Council meeting of the heads of state of the Council's member countries. I would like to know if, at that meeting, you are going to insist that the United Nations be democratized, and that this should begin by eliminating the veto power of its five permanent members.

[Perez] There are matters that governments carry out that can be called secret, or confidential, not because there is any interest in hiding these matters from the people, but because the successful outcome of an endeavor may depend on the matter not being made

public. In dealing with such matters one has to be discreet and cannot announce decisions adopted by several countries. Speaking in general, I can say that several nations and groups of nations made discreet efforts to try to prevent the execution by firing squad that has just been implemented in Cuba.

Regarding my presence at the UN Security Council with the other 15 heads of state, the people of Venezuela know that the world's greatest nations, headed by the United States, England, France, the new Commonwealth of Independent States—which comprises a portion of the former Soviet Union—and China—the permanent members of the Council—are represented there. The Council also has seats for 10 other countries on a rotating basis.

This is the main meeting place of this world organization, and this is the first time in history that a UN Security Council meeting is convened at the head of state level. It has been done because we want to transform the United Nations into a supranational organization that should really guarantee peace and international justice among countries.

This is why, if anyone is interested in that meeting, it is the small, the weak, countries. There we will present issues such as the one mentioned by this journalist. If we are speaking of world democratization, if we can say with pride that democratic concepts are being extended throughout the world, then the United Nations—which represents the world's countries—must act in line with a constant self-democratizing process. This is one issue I will touch on at that meeting.

[Moderator] I invite our colleague Sergio Bravo, of PANORAMA, to ask his question in front of the microphone.

[Bravo] I have two questions, Mr. President. The country wants to know if a port will be built in the Gulf of Venezuela and if Colombia wants to participate in this. Is this possible? The people of the oil town of Cabimas, on the eastern coast of Lake Maracaibo, have no water. This has created serious problems, and the people are protesting. This is the situation despite the fact that it had been announced that resources have been assigned to supply water to the eastern coast, especially Cabimas. What can you say about this?

[Perez] There should be a news conference dedicated solely to the issues you have just mentioned. You may recall that I announced with optimism and joy that a deep-water port is going to be built in the Gulf of Venezuela, but the most absurd and disparate interpretations were made of that announcement. Some newspaper headlined something I have never said.

Regarding the port, Venezuela does not have a deep-water port. With its opening to international commerce, Venezuela greatly needs such a port for its exports and imports. Venezuela needs a transshipment port capable of handling all kinds of ships that can bring products to our country, or to any other country of this region or other regions. With the help of experts from other nations, we have found a suitable place in the Gulf of Venezuela, where there are absolutely no problems regarding rights or sovereignty. The port will not be built by the Venezuelan state. I said this before, but the media did not report it clearly. The port will basically be built with Zulia State and Italian capital. Of course, as it is an international port, it will be used by all countries of the world. This port will be of great importance for the Andean Pact; it will be of great importance for Latin American integration in general. Of course, it will be of great importance for Venezuela and for our neighbors, among them Colombia. For example, the coal from the Colombian mines in the Guajira territory could be exported, and other products could be imported through the port.

The port could reactivate the Maracaibo Lake and its navigation, as we are also building two ports on the southern part of the lake: the La Concha port and the La Ceiba port in Trujillo State. These ports will undoubtedly help Andean trade and will also be used so that Colombia can export products from the Santander territories to other countries of the world. This would give Maracaibo, Maracaibo Lake, and the Gulf of Venezuela extraordinary potential that would undoubtedly strengthen our country's economy. This is one of the great decisions Venezuela has made in these modern times. The Port of Venezuela will become a reality that should satisfy all Venezuelans and strengthen Latin America's capability to export and import. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Tulio Leyton, from Ultimas Noticias, will ask a question.

[Leyton] Good day, Mr. President. Several days ago, Deputy Paulina Gamus of the Democratic Action party said your government does not punish corruption, and The NEW YORK TIMES said the same thing in an article. There have recently been reports of alleged acts of corruption, particularly in several autonomous institutions, all of them related to the multi-million dollar bank allotments [colocaciones]. On the other hand, well-informed sources have said the allotments have been made by persons in the banking business and high-ranking officials of your government. What can you tell the country about these events, which have hurt your government so much because the perpetrators are not being punished?

[Perez] It is no surprise that in a regime with such great freedom of the press and with so many reporters, many reports are released at the same time in different styles and versions. This tends to create confusion in the country. The truth is, I can say with satisfaction, that under this administration there have been many measures to try to prevent problems of corruption in general, as it is not just corruption by officials, but also by the private sector in coordination with the official sectors.

Many very important decisions have been made. For instance, regarding allotments, that cannot happen because the allotments from branches of the Central Administration in Banks have been prohibited, and the banks have been ordered to deposit 80 percent of the state's allotments. Therefore, this is a problem that has already been solved through institutional means that are impossible to break. [passage omitted]

During my administration, the approval and implementation of the Law on Bids has become a good brake, though not total, against corruption in Venezuela. The practices we have implemented, for example in the privatization of government assets, have also shown very honest behavior and significant purpose on the part of the national government. I hope in the future the reports by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic will reflect the great efforts being made in the Venezuelan administrative process to improve the administration and safeguard the property of the republic. Of course, I will not lie to myself or the Venezuelan people by saying corruption is impossible in Venezuela; I will not do that. The main issue is the government's willingness and determination to fight corruption. Unfortunately, there is a climate of distrust and defensiveness in response to this situation—which is undoubtedly the end result of our history. There is a tendency to believe everything that is said on this topic.

[Moderator] The next question is by Miss Maria Angelica Davila of Venevision.

[Davila] Good morning. Mr. President, with the decline of oil prices, Venezuela is losing approximately $2 billion. Concurrently, however, the country is receiving an extraordinary income of $3 billion to $4 billion because of privatizations. This being the situation, to what do you attribute the scandal concerning an alleged fiscal deficit and figures that were presented at a meeting of the Democratic Action CEN [National Executive Committee] concerning certain budget deficiencies? Also, regarding the social mega-project that has not yet been approved by the Council of Ministers, I have been informed that it is a 5-year program. How can your government guarantee this important program's continuity?

[Perez] [passage omitted] The unstable behavior of oil prices in the international market, as I have already pointed out, has caused the Venezuelan economy to experience constant uncertainty. We must definitely resolve this so that we do not have to depend on the ups and downs in oil prices. To achieve this, we need a taxation policy that can guarantee the country's fiscal stability. This is what I am proposing, and that is why I am so determined. We have already reformed the income tax law, and now we are determined to create a selective sales tax that Congress must discuss during the course of the year. This tax would preclude our dependence on oil, and the fiscal system would contribute only 3 percent of the fiscal resources required by the state.

A more important consideration follows. As we have done in previous years, we will maintain a policy of not resorting to devaluation to fill what is popularly known as fiscal gaps. The devaluation policy aims to maintain the Venezuelan currency at a constant, positive, and true value in relation to foreign currencies. This is what has determined the Venezuelan Government's monetary and exchange policy. This is what we are going to do. Consequently, we will not make a probable solution to the fiscal deficit depend on an increase in the exchange rate in the country. The primary purpose of this exchange policy is to stimulate exports and efficiently substitute for imports, not to artificially finance the nation's budget, an action that would lead us to the repeated mistakes that have crippled the Venezuelan economy. Another point is that, given the behavior of the oil prices, and in agreement with the goal to maintain a fiscal balance, the government has responsibly decided to reestimate oil revenues, as I said a few moments ago.

Yet we have also done something else. Venezuela has led a campaign to reduce production by OPEC countries. We have been as successful as we expected. First, we voluntarily reduced 50,000 BPD of our production. Through conversations, talks, and letters, both by the energy and mines minister and myself, we have spoken with the OPEC member countries and non-OPEC member oil-exporting countries and have obtained a reduction of almost 400,000 BPD of production on the part of the OPEC countries. This has resulted in a prudent and important price recovery. Venezuela has already gained between $1.50 and $2.00 per barrel with this reduction in oil production. This is another very important aspect.

As a result of this decision to modify oil estimates, we will reduce oil revenues by 60 billion bolivares. This is the yearly average reduction contemplated in the country, in view of the fluctuations that will occur in the price of oil. This corresponds to a volume of exports of 2 million BPD, whose average price will now be set at $16. To make up for this reduction of fiscal revenues, the expenditures in the budget will be cut by 53 billion bolivares. Yet we will not touch investments, or health, education, or other social expenses. In addition, we will use a portion of the non-committed treasury reserve, a result of the savings of 1991. This portion amounts to 6.8 billion bolivares.

The largest reduction in public expenditures, however, occurs in the amount stipulated in the Constitution. The Constitution says public expenditures will be proportionately reduced as soon as the revenues are reduced. This entails a reduction of 10.8 billion bolivares in the amount stipulated by the Constitution. We will reduce government expenditures by 15 billion bolivares, as I said, without affecting the allocations I mentioned. Also, because of the recession in the industrial world, there has been a reduction in oil prices, interest rates have dropped, and our expenses in the form of interest earned by our foreign debt have dropped. So we have a new 20 billion bolivar readjustment in the public debt interest.

This reduction is caused by the recession, which has resulted in a drop in oil prices. Let us make a general consideration, which has been the basis for our fiscal policy. A sound fiscal policy is one that finances the state's operational expenses with the available income and takes care of investments with resources from public loans, capital income, or the sale of assets, such as those involved in the privatization of Venezuela.

In keeping with this policy, provisions have been made within the reorganization program to use 50 billion bolivares from privatization. That is more or less half of what has been received through privatization, in keeping with the intentions or proposed plans outlined in the privatization law approved by Congress, concerning the distribution of income from privatization. This income from privatization will be financed by basic infrastructure projects because our income from oil has dropped and we do not have domestic income to support it. We will do what the law states and what common sense demands; we will use income from privatization. This will allow us to release ordinary resources to attend to the public administration's expenses that will be generated from the adjustments that we must make in the wage scales. I have said the state wage scale has been increased by 20 percent. We will attend to this by releasing ordinary income to meet the ordinary expenses of the Venezuelan state.

To pay our public debt amortizements, which are not included in the current budget because that allotment was reduced, we are going to partially refinance the public debt, increasing the amortization deadlines. This will also release resources and we would have to pledge to increase the budget to increase the debt amortized allotment. These are the measures we have adopted, and we will present them to the National Congress. The budget will then be perfectly balanced, and there will be no fiscal deficit in 1992 as far as I can foresee. In the event that the situation could be improved even more, we would have to conduct a reorganization or accept a deficit of 1 or 1.5 percent, an amount that would not mean much to the serious, honest, and affirmative policy that the Venezuelan Government is carrying out.

Regarding the social mega-project, it is very important. It will be a permanent project in Venezuela. It is not an emergency measure to ease the consequences of the economic crisis. It is not the food scholarship program or other emergency programs. It is an in-depth measure for my government and future governments to strengthen our nation and guide all Venezuelans toward work and production. This social mega-project will rely on our privatization income and on credits from multilateral organizations that practically grant concessional credits at low interest rates, long terms, and dead years [anos muertos]. These multilateral organizations are the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. I estimate that four years from now—two years of my government and two of the next government—[we will have received] $3.5 billion, which is equivalent to $220 billion, apart from the social programs and the ordinary activities that are being conducted with our budget.

This is another of my government's big decisions, and it is already undergoing an in-depth examination by the government. Within the next few days—sometime in January—I will provide a complete and detailed explanation on how we will carry out this social mega-project, which will be aimed at, as I have already said, education, social development, and health.

[Moderator] The next question is by our colleague Jesus Eduardo Grande of EL NACIONAL.

[Grande] Good morning, Mr. President. Two topics, sir. The first concerns the Gulf. There are remarks attributed to the Air Force's general commander that ratify the military sector's position on our historical rights and the Gulf's importance for Venezuela. Secondly, there have been remarks by the president of FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], who apparently does not share your view. His remarks put us in a bad situation, in the case of negotiations with Colombia. The second topic is the government's explanation of disturbances or social demonstrations, in some cases attributed to deficient services and in others to pressure for changes in economic policies.

[Perez] I have read in the newspapers the remarks attributed to the Air Force's general commander. I have not even gone to the trouble of asking the defense minister or the Air Force commander what he said. I am absolutely sure of what he said, because of his sense of responsibility and because his actions are in perfect harmony with the National Armed Forces' requirements of discipline and hierarchy. He would never make an error like this. Furthermore, his behavior is perfectly reconciled with the policy that the government of Venezuelan democracy has traditionally maintained in response to this problem. This is also true of the governments of Presidents Betancourt, Leon, Caldera, Perez, Herrera Campins, and Lusinchi; this has always been the position of all the presidents of the country, and the National Armed Forces have shared and contributed to this position. Therefore, these reports have not worried me at all.

Commander Fuguet says what Venezuelans have always said: the Gulf of Venezuela is vital to our country. It is not only the entrance to the Maracaibo Lake, the hub of our oil economy, and one of the most important areas of the country, but the Gulf of Venezuela has had significant importance since the country's inception, because it was precisely that Gulf that gave Venezuela its name, as the history of our first colonists or conquistadors states. These are the theories on which Venezuela's entire policy is based.

We have a controversy in the Gulf that, as we have agreed, involves the demarcation of marine and submarine areas. We have agreed that another country has rights in the Gulf; otherwise, we would not have accepted

the complaint. This situation began in the most official manner under President Caldera's administration, when talks were held in Rome and were supported by all the political parties. The talks were aimed at delineating the marine and submarine areas in the Gulf. We agreed there is another state with rights in the Gulf. We have been discussing those rights. More than four-fifths of the Gulf is absolutely Venezuelan, without any complaints. It is on this foundation that we have held the negotiations. The Venezuelan and Colombian Governments, through an agreement, are currently considering appointing high commissioners—three from Venezuela and three from Colombia—who will discuss the Gulf issue, adhering to these general guidelines outlined by Venezuela.

This has always been Venezuela's position. When I spoke, as I said early in this speech, about Maracaibo Lake, I said we should strengthen the Gulf of Venezuela's importance to Venezuela by creating the port. But I never said the Gulf of Venezuela belongs to Venezuela because that would be a useless, unnecessary, and provocative remark that would lead us nowhere. [passage omitted]

I must tell the media that I have discussed this issue too much, and I will not discuss it further until I am in a situation in which I must inform the country about it. Unfortunately, as far as that speech that had to be delivered because of the creation of the Gulf is concerned, I was not going to keep the port issue a secret because of the diversity of opinion that exists. I had no desire to create a controversy and respected what everyone said.

I must deplore what the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry president is quoted as saying, because it is not in keeping with reality and the facts. You must remember, we have agreed that another country has minimal, reduced, insignificant rights—however, the people wish to describe them—an issue that we have been discussing since the Rome talks. We have appointed a commission because this is what both countries agreed to resolve. This is the issue, as all Venezuelans should calmly see it, and we should have confidence. First, in that Venezuela's governments have been able to firmly maintain what we consider our rights in the Gulf. But we have agreed that the situation must be negotiated with neighboring Colombia. This must be clear to us.

Some people maintain—a respected opinion but one the Venezuelan state has never shared—that absolutely no other country has any rights in the Gulf. The Venezuelan state has never agreed with this. We believe it would create an untenable situation, detrimental to Venezuela's basic interests. The disturbances must be dealt with firmly but with understanding. All Venezuelans from all sectors, social classes, and groups have a right to express their criticism and to protest. But the Constitution and the Venezuelan people demand one requirement, based on that ancient saying by that great Latin American Benito Juarez: Each person's rights end where the next person's rights begin. Democracy throughout the world is based on this golden rule, stated by a ranking Latin American. What I cannot accept are violent attitudes that conspire against the law and Constitution and damage the interests of Venezuela and its people. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] We now have Oscar Madrid, [words indistinct] and the Latin American magazine VISION.

[Madrid] Good day, Mr. President. On 23 January, we marked the 34th year of an uninterrupted democratic system in Venezuela. Since you have witnessed three decades of this democratic process, could you tell us if you truly believe that the majority of Venezuelans have confidence in the democratic system, and what is democracy's biggest debt to the majority of Venezuelans? Also, could you confirm whether or not Venezuela aspires to the OAS general secretariat in 1993? [passage omitted]

[Perez] This is a small trick because, as it has been said, pardon me, not because of you, but it is a small trick, in good faith, because the next OAS secretary general will be elected in 1994, and I will no longer be in power.

[Reporter] The OAS.

[Perez] The OAS, the OAS, I said 1994, and since I will not be in the government any longer, I may pull my little strings. But no, I do not aspire to the OAS general secretariat. So far, I have been determined to see that the next OAS secretary general is a former president of some Latin American country, which could deepen suspicions against me. There are Latin American presidents, whom I support, who aspire to the OAS. I believe that Venezuela should aspire for the OAS to raise its level of action, to achieve the broadest representation among its leaders.

By the way, I must say I am very satisfied and pleased with Baena's work. He has put his heart and soul into increasing OAS prestige and activity. But I believe we should set certain goals. For example, I do not believe it would be advantageous for Venezuela to present a candidate now, although such advantages may emerge, because Venezuela is entitled to introduce a candidate. We can see in the Latin American panorama the possible future secretary generals of the new OAS that is emerging from the reforms made in Chile and the actions being taken in Haiti.

Government Communique on University Incidents

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[Communique read by Interior Affairs Minister Virgilio Avila Vivas; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Regarding incidents at the Central University of Venezuela on 23 January, the National Government informs the public, particularly the university community, of the following:

The university area has been the scene of repeated vandalism. Those actions have disrupted public order, impaired the university's normal activities, and hindered traffic access to the University Hospital, thus depriving the population of daily medical services. To restore public order, the National Government arrested 13 hooded men, who had been promoting chaos by burning cargo and transportation vehicles, causing extensive property damage.

In accordance with legal procedures, two prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office were called. They confirmed that the individuals arrested had their faces covered by hoods, and they ordered medical tests. They were immediately detained, with their confiscated weapons, at the Department of Reception and Coordination of Police Procedures of the Metropolitan Police and Judicial Technical Police. The respective fines will be determined by the courts.

The National Government, respecting the state of law, at no time ordered a raid or invaded the Central University. Consistent with its duty to maintain public order and protect lives and property, a security police operation was implemented in accordance with Article 7 on universities, which reads:

National and local authorities must protect avenues, streets and other free access public areas, buildings, and facilities within the university campus and take the necessary measures to safeguard and guarantee public order and protect lives and property, even if they are part of the university.

Police forces must proceed in accordance with the law to stop vandalism and guarantee order, security, and tranquility. The presence of hooded men who disrupt public order cannot be tolerated in a system of democratic liberties, where the right to freedom of opinion and peaceful demonstrations is respected.

Finally, the National Government is convinced these disruptions of public order and attacks against individuals and property are rejected by the student community, whose right to study is affected. The government urges university authorities to prevent the presence of criminals who disrupt normal activities at that educational center. National authorities will guarantee citizens' tranquility in accordance with the law.